

'Britain seeks Iraqi nuclear waste'

LONDON (R) — A Scottish newspaper reported Sunday that Britain was bidding for a consignment of Iraqi nuclear waste, originally supplied to Iraq by Moscow, for processing at Scotland's Dounreay nuclear power plant. The Mail on Sunday newspaper said documents found among "discarded papers" showed more than 23 kilograms of irradiated uranium used by Iraq for nuclear research were destined for Dounreay in northern Scotland. The disposal of waste is being handled by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the newspaper said Britain and France were likely destinations. A spokeswoman for the Department of Energy said as far as she knew the proposal was still under consideration and no final decision had been taken. "The IAEA are the ones who would make that decision and announce it," she said. The Mail on Sunday said an exchange of letters between Scottish Secretary Ian Lang and British Energy Secretary John Wakeham indicated Britain would take the waste if Mr. Wakeham and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd deemed it in Britain's overall interests. The reports in the Mail on Sunday and another newspaper, Scotland on Sunday, say the disposal of the waste is part of a £13 million clean-up operation in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

Algerian stand-off threatens to delay poll

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's parliament, a relic of one-party rule, postponed a decision on new electoral laws Sunday in spite of mounting pressure to get the country's first multi-party general election back on track. Parliament is controlled by the former ruling party, the National Liberation Front. Its stand-off with Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali, the caretaker government threatens further delays in the election, keeping the country in a political crisis which has lasted since Muslim fundamentalist riots prevented an election in June. President Chadli Benjedid lifted a state of siege last Sunday, allowing political parties to start mass rallies in expectation that an election date would soon be set. Parliament convened Sunday to vote on new election laws — the main bone of contention — but Speaker Abdel Aziz Belkhadem announced: "Consultations will continue between the deputies and the government to reach a text which will gain a majority and allow elections to be held with the shortest delay." Mr. Ghazali will address parliament Monday to try to convince deputies to back government proposals on the electoral law.

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Crown Prince meets British delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday received at the Higher Council for Science and Technology a delegation from the British Royal Defence Studies College. Prince Hassan reviewed with the delegation the situation in the region and Jordan's stand towards the regional issues. He noted that Jordan believes in finding peaceful solutions to all regional issues. The meeting was attended by the British ambassador and the British military attaché in Amman.

Bomb kills pro-Israeli gunman

MARJAYOUN (AP) — A roadside bomb exploded in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon Sunday, killing a pro-Israeli militiaman and wounding two others, security sources said. The sources said the bomb exploded at 8:00 a.m. (5:00 GMT) on a road leading to the passageway of Beit Yaboun, one of five crossing points linking the buffer strip with the rest of the country. It targeted a patrol of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) that was heading to the gateway. SLA gunners retaliated by firing mortars on the neighbouring villages of "Aita Al Jabal, Barasheet and Kasira. One villager was reported wounded, the sources said. The headquarters of the Irish battalion of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon in Barasheet also came under fire. An Irish officer said there are no casualties among the soldiers.

25 executed in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has executed 25 convicted drug traffickers, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Sunday, bringing to 45 the number of people reported executed in a week. The agency said the traffickers were executed Saturday in the northeastern city of Mashhad for buying and selling 22 kilograms of heroin, 200 kilograms of opium and 22 kilograms of hashish. It identified those convicted as 17 Afghans and eight Iranians and said they were part of an international drug ring called the "Uzbeki" that was dismantled a few months ago.

Pyramid discovered in south Egypt

CAIRO (R) — German archaeologists have stumbled upon a previously undiscovered pyramid at the ancient southern Egyptian city of Luxor, the Al Ahram newspaper said Sunday. The pyramid, the first to be found in Luxor, dates back to about 1400 B.C. It was built to house the tomb of a high priest of the ancient Egyptian god Amon and contains brightly-coloured wall friezes and inscriptions. Now partly submerged beneath ground level, it originally had a base of 100 square metres and stood eight to nine metres high, antiquities official Ali Hassan told the newspaper. The archaeologists uncovered the pyramid in the Dara Abu Naga area, west of existing sites at Luxor, and about 500 kilometres south of Cairo and the Giza Pyramids. Parts of its facing have collapsed but much of the interior is in good condition, Mr. Hassan said.

Iranian census reveals high illiteracy rate

NICOSIA (R) — Nearly 28 per cent of Iranians are illiterate and 1.28 million are unemployed, according to latest census figures reported by Tehran Radio Sunday. The radio said more than 39 million people had been questioned by Sept. 30 in the census, which has been extended until Oct. 10 in some regions. Of the total, 20.57 million people lived in urban areas, and 18.17 in rural areas, while 483,000 were of no fixed abode. "On the basis of the latest information... 22,903,849 people over the age of six years are illiterate, and 8,852,106 are illiterate," the radio said. There were 8.96 million in employment, of whom just over half lived in urban areas. The 1986 census showed a population of 49.45 million.

PLO says Baker to meet Hussein, Ashrawi in Washington this week

By Jane Arratt
Renter

AMMAN — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will meet West Bank Palestinian leaders in Washington this week for talks which could decide whether Palestinians will agree to discuss peace with Israel, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader said.

"We hope that within the next week in meetings between a Palestinian delegation and Secretary Baker we shall see a final text of the letter of assurances," PLO spokesman Yasser Abed Rabbo said in an interview Sunday.

Mr. Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, told Reuters and the international television news agency Visnews that Washington has promised that the letter would include new elements of assurances being sought by the PLO. West Bank leaders Hanan Ashrawi and Faisal Al Hussein have been waiting in London for an invitation to visit Mr. Baker to discuss obstacles to the peace talks scheduled for October.

Hizbollah leader hits U.S., Israel

BEIRUT (AP) — Hizbollah leader Abbas Musawi accused the United States and Israel Sunday of discriminating between Western hostages and Arab prisoners but said that time is over and "our era has begun."

"Thousands of detained Palestinians in Zionist jails do not make an issue, while eight, nine or 10 American and Western hostages became an issue," the Shiite Muslim sheikh said in a speech to honour some 100 former Lebanese prisoners of Israel.

"Isn't this a big proof of discrimination?" he asked.

"We tell America and the West this era has ended. Our era has begun. The era where we will prove our power over the American human being, the era of vanquishing discrimination," he said.

Some in the audience were recently released by Israel as part of an initial swap to free the Westerners held in Lebanon.

Israel freed 51 mainly Shiite prisoners and returned the bodies of nine Hizbollah guerrillas last month after obtaining proof that one of its five missing soldiers in Lebanon was dead and receiving the body of another.

In exchange, 77-year-old British hostage Jack Mann was released Sept. 24.

Israel still holds more than 300 Lebanese prisoners at the Israeli-controlled Khiam detention camp in Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon (see page 2). Their freedom has been a key condition by kidnappers holding at least nine Westerners in Lebanon.

Hizbollah is the umbrella for pro-Lebanese Shiite factions holding the Western captives.

Sheikh Musawi termed as a "conference of surrender" the Middle East peace talks sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union.

He accused the United States of "setting up a unanimous trap for our nation."

Another Shiite leader, Hussein Musawi, urged all those who can play a role in "sabotaging the conference to make a move because it has been designed against our interest and our future."

In an interview with the conservative Beirut daily Al Diyar, Hussein Musawi said the hostage issue had little bearing on the proposed peace conference.

He said if Israel kept Arab prisoners as a bargaining chip in the peace talks the hostage-holders would not release their captives.

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later Sunday.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said they had received the invitations and would probably meet Mr. Baker this week.

Hardline PLO leader Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), said Friday that Washington had changed its mind about inviting the two, fearing it would further antagonise Israel during the delicate process.

He added that the PLO was recommending that Dr. Ashrawi and Mr. Hussein should return to occupied Jerusalem even at the risk of arrest.

Dr. Ashrawi and Mr. Hussein openly speak for the PLO and are said to have attended a Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting in Algiers in defiance of an Israeli ban against contact with the organisation. The two deny that they were in Algiers.

The meeting in Washington would discuss key issues which PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said must be resolved ahead of the proposed talks. Those issues include Washington's position on the status of Jerusalem, Palestinian right to self-determination and a halt to Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

Iraq may still be working on nuclear arms — U.N. envoy

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A senior U.N. envoy left Baghdad on Sunday after declaring that, despite its denials, Iraq had secretly tried to develop nuclear weapons and that it might still be working on them.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. special commission on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, told reporters: "Our assessment is that it is a full fledged (arms) programme that was carried out and that components of the programme are still going on."

"As a result of our inspections in the nuclear area we are convinced that Iraq has and also, we believe, may continue to have a nuclear weapons development programme," Mr. Ekeus said.

Shortly after his departure, 50 U.N. chemical weapons experts — the biggest U.N. inspection team since the Gulf war ceasefire — arrived in Baghdad.

Mr. Ekeus held two days of talks with Iraq's leadership to try to get Baghdad to cooperate with visiting U.N. teams after a four-day stand-off in a Baghdad car park last month over Iraq's nuclear secrets.

The ceasefire terms require that Iraq's nuclear, chemical,

biological and ballistic weapons must be scrapped.

Mr. Ekeus maintained that seized documents which led to the stand-off were clear proof that Iraq was developing nuclear weapons but said Iraq denied its research was linked to anything but peaceful uses.

Iraq again accused U.S. President George Bush of arrogantly exceeding the terms of United Nations resolutions by calling for President Saddam Hussein's overthrow.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz was quoted by the Iraqi News Agency as saying: "The stance... announced every day by Bush, and which he repeated yesterday, arrogantly exceeds texts of the U.N. Security Council resolutions."

Mr. Bush, asked during a news conference Friday whether the United States continued to seek President Saddam's ouster, said "Let me reiterate, we want him out."

The American president pointed out that many countries have said they support maintaining sanctions for as long as the Iraqi leader remains in power.

Mr. Aziz also accused

Washington of using "pressure and bribery" to win U.N. acceptance of the Security Council resolutions against Iraq.

"Iraq has preserved and will preserve its independence... and will face the pressures and the policy of blackmail with courage and determination," he said.

Iraq last month allowed the helicopters to be flown, giving the inspectors untrammelled access for the first time to sites distant from Baghdad.

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U.S. draft upsets Israelis

TEL AVIV (AP) — Controversy has flared anew with the United States over Washington's refusal to let Israel veto Palestinian delegates to proposed Middle East peace talks, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Government hardliners responded by again accusing the United States of showing a bias toward the Arabs in its efforts to convene negotiations.

Officials in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office would neither deny nor confirm the report in the Yedioth Ahronoth daily.

But one government source confirmed the issue was a key reason for a delay in convening a peace conference.

President George Bush initially urged the meeting be held this month, by invitations have yet to be sent.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, added that Israel hoped to resolve the disagreement when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visits later this month.

(Continued on page 5)

Israelis to question Hussein, Ashrawi over 'PLO contacts'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli police told leading Palestinian activists Faisal Hussein and Hanan Ashrawi Sunday that they would be summoned for questioning about allegations they met with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) members in Algiers last month.

Police spokesman Roni Yeschayahu said the two were informed just after they landed at Ben Gurion airport from Paris.

Mr. Hussein and Ashrawi, who have met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on his seven Middle East trips, denied they ever slipped out of London to address the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers last month.

Reports said the two urged the PNC meeting to back U.S. proposals for a landmark Middle East peace conference scheduled for late October.

The PNC welcomed U.S. efforts to hold a Middle East peace conference but fell short of committing Palestinians to attend. Israeli news reports say Israel tacitly allowed Mr. Hussein and Dr. Ashrawi to meet the PNC to avoid being accused of sabotaging U.S. peace efforts but Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir dismissed the reports as a lie.

The PLO said Sunday that the two would meet Mr. Baker in Washington again this week to discuss the peace conference. Earlier Sunday an Israeli court jailed a veteran peace campaigner for 18 months for meeting PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

(page 2).

Israeli soldiers kill two in occupied West Bank, Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops clashed with stone throwers in the occupied territories Sunday and fatally shot two Palestinians, including a 10-year-old boy, hospital sources and the army said.

Also Sunday, a military court in the occupied Gaza Strip sentenced a Palestinian to three life terms for ordering his followers to kill two Israeli soldiers and attack a civilian.

Mohammad Shartaha, 34, pleaded guilty to 20 charges, including murder, attempted murder and heading a cell of the Mujahadeen Palestine, the military arm of the Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas.

He was accused of training cell members in weapons use, ordering the kidnapping and murder of two Israeli soldiers, and ordering

the slaying of an Israeli civilian, who survived the attack by Hamas followers.

Mr. Shartaha told the court he was proud of what he did and acted on the "orders of Allah ... to fight the infidels."

The two soldiers disappeared when hitch-hiking in southern Israel. Avi Sasportas was kidnapped in February 1989 and Ilan Saadon two months later. Saadon's body has never been found, but the army declared him dead.

The army has said the suspected killers of Sasportas and Saadon succeeded in escaping to Libya.

A riot erupted in the Gaza City military court after Mr. Shartaha said he was proud of masterminding the killing.

Relatives of one of the dead

soldiers rushed at Mr. Shartaha who was led away by police.

They tried to snatch weapons from some of the 40 police in the courtroom and to attack the accused's mother and sister who sat impassively at the back of the court completely veiled in black. A policeman came to the aid of the two Arab women and an Arab reporter who was also assaulted.

Two relatives of the other dead soldier 'sat quietly through the hearing.

Mr. Shartaha said he was defending Palestine against Israeli occupation.

"I am very proud of it, Thank God we could kidnap soldiers with all their arms and equipment," Mr. Shartaha said. "I am

(Continued on page 5)

Afghan premier predicts peace meeting

KABUL (R) — Afghan Prime Minister Fazel Haq Khaliquyar said Sunday he expected the two warring sides in the 13-year-old Afghan conflict to meet for the first time soon to try to break the political logjam preventing peace.

"This is a great step forward," he said in an interview after returning from talks at the United Nations in New York and Moscow.

The meeting, likely to be chaired by the United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, would bring together representatives of the Kabul government, Mujahadeen guerrillas and former King Zahir Shah for the first time, he said.

It would probably be held in Geneva at the end of October or early November. Details remained to be worked out, Mr. Khaliquyar said, but Afghan President Najibullah would not be there.

Guerrilla groups have always refused to sit down openly with Mr. Najibullah or leading figures in his ruling Watan (Homeland) Party, although there have been secret contacts between the two sides, Mujahadeen sources say.

Mr. Khaliquyar said he believed nationalist guerrilla groups who had talks in New York last week with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin had agreed to attend along with representatives of King Zahir Shah.

The 76-year-old former monarch has lived in exile in Rome since his overthrow in 1973 but has said he would be willing to play a role in bringing peace to war-torn Afghanistan.

Fundamentalist guerrilla leaders refused to join the moderates in New York.

Israel sees lower Soviet immigration this year

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel expects 150,000 Soviet immigrants to have come to the Jewish state by the end of 1991.

The total is well below last year's 185,000 and the more than 200,000 earlier forecast for 1991, but the drop in arrivals will not lessen Israel's need for U.S. aid, the Jewish Agency said Sunday.

The agency, responsible for bringing Jews to Israel, said 9,877 Soviet newcomers arrived in September, bringing the total this year to 116,711.

It expects a total of 145,000 to 155,000 Soviet Jews by year's end, despite the six-week Gulf war, economic hardship in Israel, and hopes for a better life at home.

The September figure was up 10 per cent from August's 8,943. The United States has called the settlements Israel is building in the occupied territories to house the growing Jewish population an obstacle to peace.

U.S. President George Bush, trying to convene a Middle East peace conference, has persuaded Congress to delay debate on Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees until next year, after the planned talks start.

Critics say hawkish Housing

Minister Ariel Sharon has lavished billions of dollars on building settlements in the occupied territories to make it more difficult for Israel to trade land for peace with Arab states and Palestinians.

Jewish Agency spokesman Yehuda Weintraub said the high initial forecasts were made after the record arrival of 35,295 Soviet Jews in December last year. The next month, the Gulf war erupted and Israel came under Iraqi missile attacks.

He said at least a million Soviet Jews were preparing to emigrate but it was impossible to predict how quickly they would come.

"A lot will depend on conditions in the Soviet Union, the spectre of anti-Semitism, economic conditions there and also to some extent the conditions of absorption in Israel," he said.

The Jews were continuing to migrate despite political changes in the Soviet Union and growing unemployment in Israel.

"The situation as we see it is not much better there. Some people are hedging their bets, but there are also people increasing in their desire to come to Israel,"

(Continued on page 5)

Dr. Ziyad H. Al Mughhrabi

Dentist, Doctor of Dental Surgery
Getty Oil Company — Texaco Oil Company-Kuwait (prev.)

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Pro-Israeli senator says U.S. record dismal on respect for Resolution 242

From Patricia Billings and Rania Atalla in Washington

FORMER U.S. Senator and presidential nominee George McGovern says that although the interpretation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 as meaning land for peace has been acknowledged by all six U.S. presidents since 1967, Washington failed to uphold this principle in implementing its policy towards the Arab-Israeli conflict for the past 24 years.

"An exchange of the occupied territories in return for recognition of Israeli sovereignty inside the 'green line' marking the pre-67 border should have happened at the end of 1967 war... Israel didn't have to compromise because the United States failed to stand firmly on international principle," Mr. McGovern said in a Friday evening address at the Middle East Institute annual conference.

Mr. McGovern blamed these U.S. administrations

for pursuing a contradictory policy which enables Israel to build settlements in the occupied Arab territories — settlements which now loom as a major obstacle to the achievement of a land-for-peace settlement.

"The United States is concerned with the settlements because its tax dollars have enabled Israel to build these obstacles to our own policy of brokering a peace agreement between Israel and the Arabs," Mr. McGovern asserted.

Mr. McGovern faulted the U.S. government for ignoring what he referred to as "the problem of settlements" and their detrimental effect on potential Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. While the Carter administration considered Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories as illegal, President Ronald Reagan redefined the policy, labelling settlements as an

"obstacle to peace."

"While reaffirming U.N. Resolution 242 to be the basis of any peace in the Middle East — American policy since 1967 — the Reagan administration looked away as Israel continued to efface the green line and make division of the land impossible," Mr. McGovern stated.

The former South Dakota senator said that while the publicly-stated American policy was based on the exchange of land for peace as stipulated in Resolution 242, Washington was privately reassuring Israeli leaders that it would not pressure them to compromise. Now, Mr. McGovern said, it appears that Israel is not willing to withdraw from any of the territories occupied in 1967, but rather, Israeli settlements will reach, in the words of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, "the end of the horizon."

Mr. McGovern, a self-proclaimed supporter of

Israel, attested to the power of the pro-Israel lobby in Washington, saying that during his 22 years of service in the Senate, he watched many lawmakers grow resentful as political pressure from the lobby drove them to override their personal convictions. Mr. McGovern faults lawmakers for failing to communicate these "resentments and guilty consciences" to the lobby and to the Israelis. In effect, Israeli leaders convinced themselves that Washington would not stand in the way of settlements and territorial expansion because lawmakers had failed to convey to them the degree of American opposition to such action.

Mr. McGovern, a former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on the Middle East, said the lobby had influenced U.S. lawmakers and presidents to the extent that the American government failed to uphold its expressed policy towards



George McGovern

Israel. That lobby, the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), is widely considered as one of the strongest interest groups in the U.S. although it has recently experienced a setback as the administration succeeded in delaying congressional consideration of \$10 billion in housing loan guarantees for Israel.

Shamir predicted that his American supporters would be able to circumvent the president's resistance through exerting their power over Congress. For the first time that tactic is not working," Mr. McGovern said.

Israeli peace activist sentenced to jail again for PLO contacts

RAMLE (Agencies) — A magistrate's court on Sunday sentenced Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan to 18 months in prison for meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Nathan, 64, also was given an 18-month suspended sentence. It was Mr. Nathan's second conviction in two years under an Israeli law that bans meeting with members of "terror" organisations.

Israel considers the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) a "terror" group. The maximum sentence for the offence is three years.

"It's a sad day for democracy, for human rights and for peace," Mr. Nathan told the Associated Press after the sentencing.

Mr. Nathan, a former air force pilot and founder of the radio station "Voice of Peace" said he remained convinced that Israel eventually would have to negotiate with the PLO.

"There isn't a single Palestinian who doesn't belong to the PLO or supports the PLO," Mr. Nathan said. "If they are our enemies, they are the ones we must talk to."

Mr. Nathan vowed he would meet again with PLO leaders. "This law is an obstacle to peace. I will violate it again after I leave jail," he said in a telephone interview.

The sentencing came at a time when the United States is trying to bring Israel, the Palestinians and Arabs states to a Middle East peace conference. The issue of Palestinian representation and



Abie Nathan

possible PLO involvement is one of the remaining sticking points. The court ruling could also set a possible precedent for Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi, two leading Palestinians from Jerusalem who reportedly briefed PLO leaders in Algiers last month on their talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker concerning the peace conference.

Israeli leaders have said Mr. Husseini and Dr. Ashrawi would be questioned by police upon their return to Israel.

Mr. Nathan has to report to prison on Thursday. He said he would use the time to study Arabic and write his memoirs.

He also said he would probably offer his radio station for sale or close it down. He said he suffered monthly losses of 50,000 shekels (\$21,300) because major advertisers are boycotting the station.

allegedly for political reasons. Mr. Nathan has met nine times with Mr. Arafat, most recently in July in Tunis. Mr. Nathan denied the meetings, and insisted to fight as undemocratic law banning contacts with PLO.

In October 1989, Mr. Nathan was sentenced to six months in prison and also received a one-year suspended sentence for meeting with Mr. Arafat and other PLO leaders in 1988.

Mr. Nathan was released after four months in February 1990, with time off for good behaviour. Mr. Nathan immediately resumed meetings with the PLO.

In April and May, Mr. Nathan staged a 40-day hunger strike to protest against the law. Legislators introduced a bill meant to change the law, but the bill was rejected in June.

Mr. Nathan had said hundreds of Israelis, including members of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's ruling Likud party, had had contacts with the PLO but that only he and a handful of other peace activists had faced trial.

Israeli Police Minister Ron Milo has ordered police to question Mr. Husseini and Dr. Ashrawi from the occupied territories on charges of breaking the same law.

Israeli news reports said Israel tacitly allowed Mr. Husseini and Dr. Ashrawi to meet PLO leaders to avoid being accused of sabotaging U.S. peace efforts but Mr. Shamir dismissed the reports as lies.

Former Somali leader's military claim disputed

NAIROBI (AP) — Somali rebels who in January drove former President Mohammad Siad Barre from power said Sunday that he was lying when he announced his forces were moving towards the capital.

"There are no forces loyal to Siad Barre moving on Mogadishu and trying to take the city," United Somali Congress (USC) spokesman Ali Gaal said by telephone from London.

"In fact, the USC has sent forces and pushed Siad Barre's forces back from Badava to Gabareh," said Mr. Ali. Both towns are in southwestern Somalia, and Gabareh is Mr. Siad Barre's home region.

Mr. Ali said the USC forces confronted Mr. Siad Barre's troops last week "and I think they will finish them this time."

Mr. Siad Barre made his claim in an interview published Saturday in Saudi Arabia's English-language Ash-Sharq daily.

He quoted the 86-year-old former ruler as saying he was confident he would return to Mogadishu in triumph, but that he did not want to reclaim rule of the impoverished, war-ravaged desert country of eight million.

Mr. Siad Barre, who seized power in a bloodless 1969 coup, was ousted after a month of intense urban warfare in Mogadishu. More than 4,000 people were reported killed in the fighting.

In the newspaper interview, the former president said his troops were approaching Mogadishu from three directions.

Mr. Ali said that was an "absolute lie."

Telecommunications with the Horn of Africa country were severed during the fighting in January and it was not possible to independently verify any of the claims.

However, a spokesman for the Somali Salvation Democratic Front which is working together with the USC to form a government, also disputed Mr. Siad Barre's claims.

"It's not true, none of it," said Abdullahi Taib, a front spokesman in Nairobi.

The front draws its support from the Majerteen, a major sub-group of Somalia's large southern Darod clan. Mr. Siad Barre's clan, the Marehan, is one of the smaller Darod sub-clans.

The front is represented in the



Mohammad Siad Barre

new 72-member cabinet, sworn in last week by President Ali Mahdi Muhammad, former leader of the USC, in an effort to bring some control to the country. The front's acting chairman, Musse Isaan, was named minister of defence.

More than a year of anarchy in the arid nation worsened after Mr. Siad Barre's overthrow with clan-based militia claiming various sections of the country and battling one another.

Although president, Mr. Mohammad controls little beyond the walls of his home in Mogadishu.

In May, the northern section seceded as the independent Republic of Somaliland under the leadership of the rebel Somali National Movement, which fought Mr. Siad Barre's rule for nearly 10 years and resented the USC's seizure of Mogadishu and the presidency.

Mr. Siad Barre and his forces have remained largely holed up in the southwest since his ouster, failing to form any firm alliances with any of Somalia's other insurgencies.

In the Arab News daily interview, Mr. Siad Barre described the situation in Mogadishu as chaotic and branded the Hawiye clan, which dominates the USC, as dictators.

Mr. Siad Barre long has been described as a dictator by international human rights groups and his opposition, who accuse him of widespread atrocities, including massacres of tens of thousands of people, and of looting the nation's wealth.

Qatar assails Bahraini statement

NICOSIA (R) — Qatar accused Bahrain Sunday of trying to dissociate itself from a Saudi-brokered agreement on a long-standing territorial dispute over a cluster of small but potentially oil and gas-rich islands, reefs and sandbars.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by the Qatari News Agency, denounced as irresponsible a statement from Bahrain saying the two sides had failed to agree on a joint application to the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

"There have been no negotiations on concluding an agreement between the two parties following the December 1990 Doha summit," the spokesman said. "Qatar regrets these irresponsible statements which only reflect Bahrain's wish to dissociate itself from a binding agreement signed on Dec. 25 last year."

The Qatar statement said that under the Saudi-mediated agreement signed in Doha in December last year, the two sides agreed to take the long-standing dispute to the Hague court to seek an amicable settlement.

Saudi Arabia has been mediating in the dispute since 1986 when helicopter-borne Qatari troops landed on one of the disputed islands and arrested 29 foreign workers building a coastguard station for Bahrain. They were freed after 17 days.

The Qatar statement said that no negotiations had taken place so far to present a joint position to the World Court.

Bahrain said Friday the Hague court had postponed until next year a Qatari application to look into the dispute.

Gulf officials said the move was intended to give Qatar time to reconsider and submit a joint application with Bahrain in line with normal procedure.

But the Qatar statement denied that the Hague court had postponed the case and said the court would decide very soon on the procedures necessary to proceed with the Qatari claim.

Bahrain said it had no choice but to oppose the unilateral Qatari application.

Hostage efforts bring hope to Arabs held at Khiam

KHIAM, Lebanon (R) — U.N. efforts to broker an exchange of Western hostages and missing Israeli servicemen for Arab prisoners have brought some hope for detainees at South Lebanon's notorious Khiam prison.

The fortress-like camp has since 1985 housed Arab activists either captured or suspected of attacking Israeli troops holding a self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon to guard against guerrilla raids.

Former inmates say many have never been charged or tried.

Israel last month freed 51 prisoners from Khiam as part of U.N.-led efforts to solve the hostage crisis. They say those still in the camp have heard of the U.N. initiative from prison officials.

The "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) militia — Israel's chief ally in the region — said it would release 31-year-old Khodr Murad who was held for six years.

Mr. Murad said his ribs were broken by beatings and he still suffers from severe chest infections.

He was caught in 1985 while carrying ammunition to the Islamic Resistance — an anti-Israel coalition dedicated to expelling the Jewish state from South Lebanon.

They said conditions at Khiam were very harsh until 1989 but improved slightly after several riots.

"We were starving. The little food we got was of very poor quality. They often deprived us of drinking water for days in a row. One inmate drank his urine instead of water," said Salam, a Lebanese Communist Party member, freed after four years.

The former detainees said five prisoners had died at Khiam since 1987 — two under torture, two suffocated by tear-gas after a 1989 riot, and one of a chronic illness.

An SLA doctor visits the prison every Tuesday but treatment is limited to painkillers, they said.

Each inmate is given four blankets, a mattress, two track suits, a towel and a big bucket to use as a toilet. The bucket is emptied every three days.

General Lahd refuses to allow the Red Cross access to Khiam unless Hizbollah lets it see the Israelis and eight missing SLA men.

Sadat expected attack but trusted destiny — aide

CAIRO (R) — Ten years on, the only unusual thing Sufi Abu Taleb remembers noticing before seeing Anwar Sadat shot beside him was fewer guards than usual.

"He had great confidence in his destiny," Mr. Abu Taleb said of Mr. Sadat, who signed a separate peace treaty with Israel and paid for it with his life.

"He expected something like this but put fewer guards than usual at the stadium," Mr. Abu Taleb told Reuters.

As speaker of parliament when the assassination took place on Oct. 6, 1981, Mr. Abu Taleb became acting president for a few hours until Egypt's leadership settled the succession on the vice-president, Hosni Mubarak.

Mr. Sadat — war hero, peacemaker, staunch ally of the West, darling of the world's media and stern authoritarian ruler — has left a bitter-sweet taste for many Egyptians.

Mr. Abu Taleb, now 66 and still a member of parliament, hails him as a visionary.

"Ten years after his death we're only coming back to his policies now... negotiating on the Palestinian problem and the open door (economic liberalisation) policy," said Mr. Abu Taleb.

Mr. Sadat stunned the world and earned the hatred of Muslim and secular Arab hardliners by flying to occupied Jerusalem in 1977 and making peace with Israel.

But as he moved onto the world stage, Mr. Sadat became more and more remote from his own people. Unrest simmered, fed by rampant corruption and glaring gaps between rich and poor, caused in part by the "open door" policy which plunged Egypt into debt.

A group of young officers led by Khaled Islambouli, a member of a secret Islamic group, gunned Mr. Sadat down while he reviewed a parade on the anniversary of the successful surprise attack across the Suez Canal with which Egypt launched its 1973 war with Israel.

Mr. Abu Taleb remembers Mr. Sadat said his assassins before anyone else.

"He stood up and said 'I don't believe it, I don't believe it.' Then we heard explosions and everyone dived under the seats."

"It was all over so suddenly... after a few seconds I looked over and saw him covered in blood," Mr. Abu Taleb said.

Mr. Sadat was rushed unconscious to hospital while Mr. Abu Taleb, now acting president, struggled to control the panic.

"It was a very very big burden for me, to try and save Egypt. I tried to tell all the leaders of my country together in one place and not to announce the assassination before choosing the new president."

At three o'clock in the afternoon, doctors told Egypt's leaders, gathered in the prime ministry in downtown Cairo, Mr. Sadat was dead. They sat on the news for two hours until they had chosen Mr. Mubarak.

"I declared martial law," Mr. Abu Taleb said. "We had to stop them taking over the television or the radio."

"My first feeling was that they wanted Sadat personally. (Defence Minister Mohammad Abdul Halim) Abu Ghazala was just on his left and Mubarak on his right... why didn't they shoot them?"

"But afterwards, when we heard of events at Asut... we thought there was some kind of revolution against the whole system."

Armed militants led a brief uprising in the southern towns of Asut on hearing the news and fought with police and special army units. Dozens died there and in scattered incidents elsewhere.

Mr. Abu Taleb said he supported Mr. Sadat right to the end but had been opposed to the arrests of September 1981, when thousands of prominent personalities were thrown in prison without charges.

France wants better ties with Iran

NICOSIA (R) — France, whose relations with Tehran have been clouded by the murder of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar, said Sunday it wanted better ties between the two countries, Tehran Radio reported.

"The French government believes that relations between the two countries have reached a very good level and that they must now be enhanced at a greater speed," it quoted French Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Alain Vivien.

"We attach special significance to the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran on important international and regional issues," the radio monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, quoted him as saying.

It said Mr. Vivien, who arrived in Tehran Saturday night, was speaking after meeting Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

There was no word whether the murder was discussed. The Shah's last prime minister, Mr. Bakhtiar was stabbed to death in August at his heavily-guarded home in a Paris suburb.

French justice sources have said that one of three suspects in their custody had told investigators that senior Iranian figures had ordered the killing. Iran denied involvement.

The affair has clouded relations between Paris and Tehran. President Francois Mitterrand was due to visit Iran this month but diplomats have said that now seemed unlikely.

Iran's official news agency, IRNA quoted Mr. Vivien as saying France was ready to expand economic relations with Iran and play an active role in the implementation of major infrastructure projects in its five-year development plan.

The volume of trade between the two countries in 1990 totalled 11 billion French francs (\$1.92 billion) — five times more than the 1987 total, Mr. Vivien said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Hey Dad
21:10 The Midway Touch
22:00 News in English
22:20 Gabriels Fair

PRAYER TIMES

04:12 Fajr
05:29 Sunrise (Souris) Doha
11:23 Dhuhr
14:44 Asr
15:31 Maghrib
18:35 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swiss Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church Tel. 627285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661787
Terrence Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623583, Tel. 62543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 77261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623624, 645432
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be northerly to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly to moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 16/26
Aqaba 22/33
Dahat 29/31
Jordan Valley 23/33

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Zaid Zaghout 638591
Dr. Youssef Al Fegh 67709
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 845070
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 891256
Firas pharmacy 661912
Perdows pharmacy 778356
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nawras pharmacy 626272
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsal pharmacy 637660

IBRAHIM:
Dr. Hamdi Bachan (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy 278265

ZARQA:
Dr. Abdul Karim Khazhshah (—)

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 58 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence: Immediate 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 638321
Hotel Complaints 603880
Petrol Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 891467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 221
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101

Khalaf pharmacy 985417

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381322
Khalid Maternity J. Amn 6442876
Khalid Maternity J. Amn 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malika J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsini 6641714
Shamsini Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Munshir Hospital 6672719
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Al-Bashir, J. Amman 7710153
Al-Bashir, J. Amman 77111126
Army, Marfa 8916115
Queen Alia Hospital 62240350
Amal Hospital 674153

Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 515615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-32200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-32200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)90560
Bin Sam Hospital (09)98732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)90990
IBRAHIM:
Princess Beana Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Bin Al Nafes Hospital (02)27100
AQABA:
Flecos Hays Hospital (03)314111

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:00 Sanaa (RJ)
08:00 Damascus (RJ)
08:15 Riyadh (RJ)
08:15 Jeddah (RJ)
08:30 Doha (RJ)
08:30 Larnaca (RJ)
08:30 Beirut (RJ)
08:30 Bangkok (RJ)
08:30 Cairo (RJ)
08:30 Istanbul (RJ)
08:30 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
08:30 Yerevan (RJ)

Other Carriers (Terminal 2)

12:20 Cairo (MS)
12:40 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GP)
12:40 Paris (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:15 Beirut (RJ)
11:50 Montreal New York (RJ)
11:50 Istanbul (RJ)
12:15 London (RJ)
12:15 Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 Cairo (RJ)
12:15 Yerevan (RJ)
12:15 Moscow (RJ)
12:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
12:15 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:15 Beirut (MS)
12:40 Cairo (MS)
14:15 Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Uppercase price in lbs per kg.
Apples 600/500
Bananas (small) 300/450
Bananas (medium) 350/500
Beans 350/500
Cabbage 160/120
Cauliflower 280/240
Cucumbers (large) 150/100
Cucumbers (small) 340/280
Eggplant 260/180
Garlic 850/750
Grapes 900/800
Lemon 220/180
Marrow (large) 150/1

Indian, Jordanian officials discuss ways of increasing production of fertilisers

AMMAN (J.T.) — An international conference on fertilisers has begun with the participation of Jordanian and Indian experts and officials from the phosphate, potash and fertiliser industries in both countries.

Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb, who Sunday opened the meetings, underlined the importance of talks between producers and consumers of fertilisers. He discussed matters and proposals for promoting the fertiliser industry. The fertiliser industry is one of the most important ones worldwide because it is related to agriculture and food production to combat famines and to feed a growing population, the minister said.

Despite the expansions of the last decades, the fertiliser industry requires further efforts and there are a lot of things to be done to raise the standard and quality of production, the minister said in his opening address. The minister expressed Jordan's satisfaction with the progress of economic and trade links between India and Jordan and noted that cooperation would be boosted with the implementation of a project to produce phosphoric acid at Siddieh Phosphate Mines in southern Jordan.

Agreement has been reached in principle for the project, which entails investing a total capital of \$100 million with the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) providing \$10 million in infrastructure while Indian Southern Petrochemicals Corporation (SIPCO) providing \$15



Panel at International Fertiliser Seminar, being held at Amara Hotel, discusses importance of fertilisers to agricultural sector (Petra photo).

million in machinery, equipment and technology, according to informed sources.

Inquiries in the international market to raise the remaining \$75 million will be launched, the sources said. They said that the entire output of the proposed 208,000-tonne plant will be purchased by the Indian government.

The joint venture, they added, will open the way for the employment of 150 Jordanians to be working with Indian technicians.

According to JPMC Managing Director Wasef Azar, his company will be supplying the phos-

phates to produce phosphoric acid.

Mr. Azar said India and Jordan will soon conclude an agreement for the production of the phosphoric acid at Siddieh.

A representative of the Indian corporation told the meeting that his company imports nearly \$200 million worth of phosphate fertilisers annually and the Indian market imports more than 50 per cent of Jordan's total phosphate production.

India is in need of fertilisers because it is mainly an agricultural country and 70 per cent of the

Indian people earn a living by being farmers.

Mr. Azar said that the meeting aims at bolstering Jordanian-Indian cooperation and increasing JPMC production.

The Indian experts will submit a number of working papers and will make field trips to fertiliser plants as well as the JPMC and Arab Potash Company plants in southern Jordan.

JPMC sources said the five-day meeting will focus attention on the utilisation of modern technology in exploiting Jordan's phosphates and potash in the production of fertilisers.

Librarian's importance in developing national goals stressed

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, Minister of Culture and Higher Education Khalid Karaki Sunday opened the Second Conference for Jordanian Librarians, organised by the Jordan Library Association (JLA).

Addressing the opening session, which was held at the Royal Culture Centre, JLA President Amwar Alkrouh said that the association's dream to hold such a conference has materialised. He called for developing library work and for enacting legislation on libraries and books with a view to providing the information service at the national level.

He stressed the importance of providing library labs and for directing special attention to public, school and university libraries.

He also noted the importance of the three-day meeting, saying that it was designed to shed light on the library movement in Jordan and to focus attention on the problems facing librarians and precluding the development of libraries.

He reviewed the JLA's plans, programmes and activities and noted its contributions to unifying the efforts of librarians and improving their conditions.

The conference is being attended by 500 librarians from Jordan, Iraq and Tunisia.

Health Ministry official calls for building new hospitals at cost of JD36 million

AMMAN (J.T.) — A senior Health Ministry official has called for more hospitals to be built in Jordan to cope with the growing demand on health services in light of the influx of expatriates from Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

New hospitals that would cost nearly JD 36 million plus operational costs and equipment estimated at JD9 million should be built, taking into consideration geographical distribution of population settlements in the country if services are to be distributed fairly, said Dr. Mustafa Al Barmawi, the ministry's secretary general and acting director of the Hospitals Department.

The return to the Kingdom of 300,000 expatriates from the Gulf has brought about additional burdens on the Health Ministry and

its hospitals, he said.

According to Dr. Barmawi, 50,000 of the returnees are children under school age, 125,000 are of school age, 120,000 are university age and 5,000 are elderly people. He estimates that among the expatriates there are at least 10,000 child-bearing women who require constant medical and maternity care each year.

To cope with the additional burden the Health Ministry is in need of at least JD45 million in additional allocations to its 1992 fiscal budget, he said.

In Dr. Barmawi's view, the country is in need of 600 additional beds at existing hospitals, 150 of which should be assigned for women delivering children in addition to 45 incubators. To

instal all of this, present government hospitals should be enlarged, he said.

Dr. Barmawi's estimates for additional allocations constitute only a fraction of Jordan's expected needs for the coming five years to deal with the socio-economic consequences the Gulf crisis.

According to Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz, the Kingdom is in need of at least \$4.5 billion the next five years to cope with the huge population increases.

In a recent statement to Reuter new agency, Dr. Fariz said the population has grown by 10 per cent since the outbreak of the crisis in August 1990 and the country will be in need of huge funds to provide the essential services for the new people.

First feedgrain donation shipment arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first shipment of a 241,000 tonnes donation of feedgrain from the United States to Jordan has arrived at Aqaba.

The shipment, consisting of 41,000 tonnes of corn and sorghum, arrived in the port city Saturday.

The agreement, signed by Jordanian and American officials on July 18, is valued at \$27 million. The feedgrain will consist of yellow corn and sorghum and will be delivered by the end of the year, according to an announcement from the U.S. embassy.

Under the agreement, the government of Jordan, through the Ministry of Supply, will sell the donated feedgrain to private sector livestock/poultry farmers and feed production mills.

The local currency generated will be deposited in a special interest-bearing account which will be used to finance projects that are jointly selected by Jordan and USAID and that are consistent with the provision of food assistance to needy people, a key criterion in the selection of projects.

Over 30, projects in the various fields of agriculture, irrigation and social development implemented during the past two years have received assistance under this programme.

Housing Corporation calls for foreign aid on occasion of Shelter Day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, along with other countries all over the world, today celebrates the World Shelter Day under the theme "Shelter and the Living Environment".

The day, approved by the United Nations General Assembly in Dec. 1985, coincides with the Arab Housing Day, which was declared by virtue of a decision passed in 1986 by the Council of Arab Housing Ministers.

On the occasion, the Housing Corporation's director general, Youssef Hiyasat, said that Jordan has requested the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) to help it with its current housing crisis, caused by the influx of some 300,000 Jordanian returnees from Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

He pointed out that Jordan needs \$4.5 billion during the next five years to cope with the population increase according to Ministry of Planning statistics. He added that Jordan's population has increased by 10 per cent because of the influx in addition to the natural population growth rate of 3.5 per cent.

Mr. Hiyasat said that Jordan needs \$3.7 billion in aid in the form of housing, health, transport, water and sanitation investments in order to cope with the needs of the returnees.

He added that work is currently underway on initiating a two-year training programme in the area of housing.

On his corporation's achievements, Mr. Hiyasat said the Housing Corporation carried out 81 housing projects in Jordan, including 15,000 units at a cost of JD 160 million.

To mark Shelter Day, the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, delivered a speech highlighting the importance of providing appropriate shelter.

He said that the living conditions of people determines, to a great extent, the health standards of the population and their productivity.

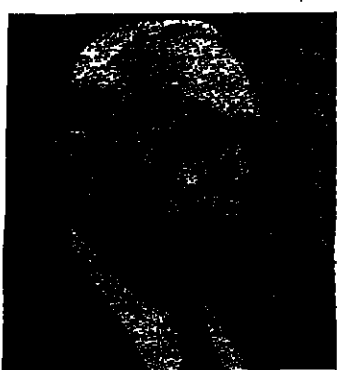
The United Nations, through UNCHS, is committed to assisting governments, particularly the Third World Countries, to develop human settlements.

Official: Surveys indicate water shortage to become more acute

AMMAN (J.T.) — A number of surveys and studies conducted by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation together with regional and international institutions have revealed that Jordan, along with the countries of the Middle East, will be facing more difficulties than those encountered at present in a drive to meet the water needs of the population, Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kassar said Sunday.

The expected difficulties stem from the scarce water resources, poor rainfall and the influx of people together with ever growing number of population in the country, the minister said at the opening of a two-day symposium on the water situation in Jordan. The symposium was organised by the ministry in cooperation with the Arab Youth Forum (AYF).

In addition to facing the prospect of having to search



Samir Kassar

for new and alternative water resources, Jordan will have to deal with the dangers of pollution to existing water resources and to direct the public to economise in water use, the minister said.

To deal with these questions, the minister said the Water Ministry is preparing a national strategy that would give consideration to the water

reserves and legislations related to the use of water for domestic and agricultural purposes.

The organisers said that the symposium will focus attention on the water needs of Jordan between now and the year 2005 as well as matters related to the pollution of water resources, irrigation systems, water salinity, the use of modern technology in managing water resources and finding alternative sources.

Dr. Jamil Rashdan, from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, said that he was submitting a working paper on Jordan's water needs. The paper, he said, notes that Jordan last year consumed 175 million cubic metres of water at the rate of 150 litres per head each day.

He said that the country's needs by the year 2005 is expected to rise to 293 million cubic metres of water.

Activities highlighting condition of Arab child begin today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A week-long programme of various cultural and social activities will kick off in Amman and other areas of Jordan Monday marking Arab Child Day.

Organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHIF) and other organisations, the activities will be held under the slogan of "The Child First" in order to focus public attention to the need of giving more care to children than other sectors.

According to an announcement, the activities for the week

will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor and will include a seminar to be broadcast on radio and television focusing attention on the World Charter on the Rights of the Child and other related topics.

The ceremonies and activities to be conducted in different areas of the country will mainly tackle children's health and the poor child well as studies on the state of children returning from the Gulf in addition to topics related to the protection of the environment.

Road accidents claim 7 lives

AMMAN (Petra) — Seven people were killed and 213 others injured in 459 road accidents which took place throughout Jordan during the last week in September, according to a report issued by the Public Security Traffic Department.

The accidents were caused by high speed, wrong overtaking,

tailgating, violating traffic instructions — such as right of way — and careless driving.

The report noted an increase of 35 accidents over the week before. The highest number of accidents was in Amman, which accounted for 276 accidents, followed by Irbid with 61 and Zarqa with 41.

WHAT'S GOING ON

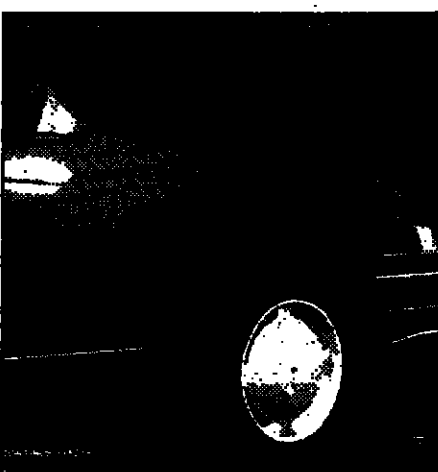
EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists Muhammad Hussein Jull (copper engraving) and Sahib Al Yasiri (ceramics) at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Goethe Forest" at the Department of Science and Technology of the University of Jordan. The exhibition consists of 45 pictures of the forest which is located in Dana between Tafilah and Shobak.

400 reasons for AS/400

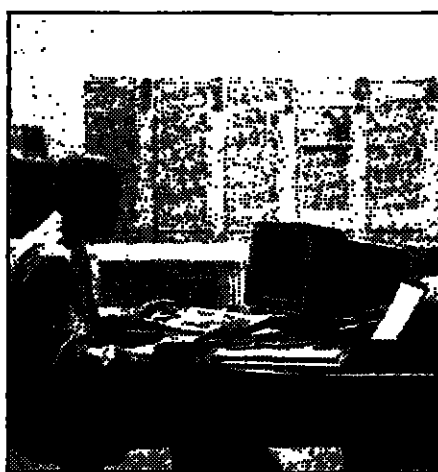
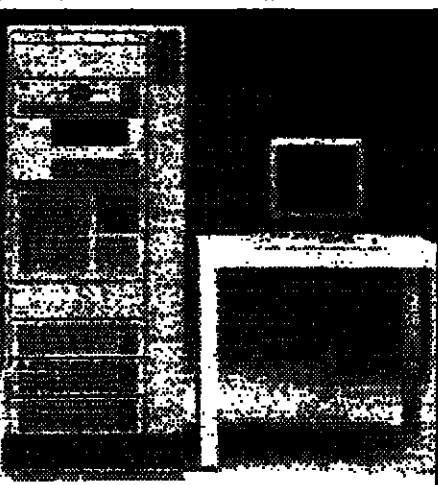
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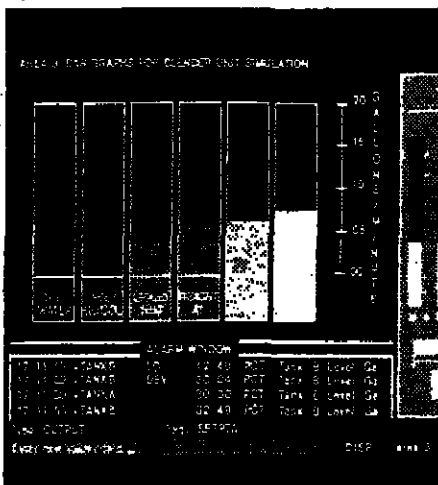
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No one has all the right answers

IT IS presumptuous of any parliamentary bloc to lecture the government of Taher Masi on whether it is able or unable to meet the requirements of the current phase or accuse it of losing its credibility simply because that group or another bloc in the Lower House was not integrated into the government. Only the people of Jordan are the judge of that through their lawful representatives in Parliament. Yet that is exactly what the 18-member Constitutional Bloc has stated in a strongly-worded communique issued in the wake of the recent reshuffle in the Masi cabinet which entailed bringing in five new ministers, one of whom is a parliamentarian, and dropping five others, three of whom are also members of Parliament.

One can understand and even appreciate the concern of the second largest political group in Parliament that it be consulted and have its views and position on the prospective peace conference on the Middle East fully taken into consideration. However it is one thing to suggest or even insist that no parliamentary party, big or small, be bypassed when profound policy decisions are taken and quite another to translate that legitimate concern into a veto power on the entire decision taking process in the country.

Likewise, it is valid to assert at this critical time when the entire region is in search for durable and just peace that the government be strong, united and purposeful not only with regard to the peace process but also the varied domestic issues that still haunt the Kingdom. But it would be utterly egotistical for any school of thought to grant unto itself the self-assumed power to give or take power to the incumbent government. This is especially true in view of the fact that the prime minister never sought to exclude any parliamentary bloc of powers from any consultations on the eve of the formation of his government last June, including the Constitutional Bloc which is admittedly a major power group in Parliament.

There is plenty of room for continued consultations, if not outright cooperation, between the current cabinet and the Constitutional Bloc. This continuous exchange of views between them becomes all the more pressing if the bloc's leader, Thaqan Hindawi, is elected as speaker of the House during the next ordinary session of the House. Cooperation between the government and the various "political parties" in the House does not and should not end simply because any particular "party" is for one reason or another excluded from the cabinet.

A viable and operational democracy needs a shadow government composed of opposing political trends to serve as watchdog over the policies and actions of the existing government. After all, there is no government which can be permanent and there will always be plenty of room for other political leaders to assume power when the time comes. In short, the credibility of the Constitutional Bloc and the confidence of the people in it will increase in proportion to the way they exercise dissent. The country needs a strong and a viable opposition but not the kind that leaves one ultimatum after the other or contends that it and it alone has all the right answers.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAI Arabic daily said Sunday that the projected peace conference is a real chance and a test for the Western nations, particularly the United States, for their intentions and seriousness in implementing the international legitimacy. The peace conference is bound to reveal the truth about the Western nations which claim to be keen on safeguarding the international legitimacy and is bound to show whether they are sincere or not, said the paper. It said that the Middle East question has waited for a quarter of a century to be settled and their coming conference is the last chance for the West to prove its stand and to implement U.N. Security Council resolution. The current efforts to convene the conference, we are told, aim at implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 passed in 1967 and so, there can be no justification for further delay or procrastination, the paper said. It pointed out that the Western nations have delayed taking action in implementing that resolution for so long, but were quick in forcing Iraq, through aggression and continued embargo, to comply with a resolution only a few months after its endorsement. It took the U.S.-western alliance a few months to decide on an aggression against Iraq to force it to comply with the will of the world community, but it seems that 25 years are not enough for a peaceful move to force Israel to give up occupied land, the paper added. It said that if the Western powers prove to be genuine in their intentions and if they carry out the U.N. Security Council resolutions to establish peace in the Middle East, then and only then can the Arabs believe that the world community is heading towards a new world order where harmony and justice are to prevail.

A columnist in Al Rai daily focused attention on the importance of Jordanians under the umbrella of democracy in Jordan. Salah Abdul Samad referred to an election by the General Federation of Jordanian Women next Friday as an exercise in democracy and called on all Jordanian women to participate. The writer said that the federation is striving to represent half of the Jordanian society and to promote the status of women in all sectors. For this reason the writer called on certain groups of women who had earlier declared their boycott of the coming election to reconsider their move and to take part in a democratic practice that is bound to enhance women's status in the local community. The present stage through which Jordan is passing, he said, required from all sectors to show cohesion and close cooperation at all levels, therefore, women are urged to shoulder their responsibility in contributing towards promoting the standards and the activities of the Jordanian society from their end to transcend all side differences for the sake of upholding the common good.

Weekly Political Pulse

JORDAN Television last week depicted at prime time the tragic story of a six-year "young" boy accidentally shot in the head during a wedding that took place near his house. He was lying on a hospital bed for a whole week with his brain completely dead till he died Friday.

Thus wedding parties still take their heavy toll on the lives of innocent people in spite of a decade-long campaign to eradicate this disease from the Jordanian society. None of the Jordanian dailies, however, had picked up this nightmare with any degree of prominence or persistence as if signalling the callous impression that such carnage will continue in Jordan as naturally as the sun will rise every morning.

A few days ago another tragedy hit Amman when a prominent Jordanian businessman was hit by a speeding car while he was strolling leisurely with his wife on the sidewalk: one of the capital's main thoroughfares.

The killing of innocent people still goes on at weddings as it and persists on our highways and streets, and at the hands of avengers and honour seekers. This phenomenon continues unabated for one simple reason: The central government has yet to take these issues by the horn and deal with them with the degree of sternness that is commensurate with the size of the problem. In other words

the brain trust of the cabinet is still directed into politically-oriented issues at the expense of several pressing local concerns. By so doing, the government is manifesting a woefully stoic reaction to such archaic traditions as if it is best to leave them alone. So what if innocent people get killed at weddings, stop signs, on the side walks or in the name of honour and tribal justice, is what in essence the government is telling the people. Otherwise the concerned authorities would have acted with more determination to uproot such scourges from the Jordanian lifestyle.

Coming to think of it, why the much acclaimed National Charter had failed to address such social diseases with any degree of prominence? Why the country has yet to articulate a well defined campaign against such chronic violence in our society? Obviously there are many ways that should have been raised at Parliament, and by the press and at institutions of learning. Time is overdue for the entire Jordanian population to rise up in anger and indignation at the sight and news of such social crimes and say in one chorus: Never again!

Jordan TV, should be commended for raising the issue with such effectiveness. The national shock needs to be nurtured and directed in the direction of some action-oriented decisions by both the people and the government. The momentum of the national

angish must likewise be maintained so that the death of the six-year-old child and the businessman will not be in vain once again.

A direct appeal from His Majesty King Hussein to his people to end such savage customs would go a long way to eliminate them once and for all. The King takes time to address his subjects on many external issues and in keeping with that tradition, domestic matters deserve an equal share of concern.

Meanwhile, the government needs to begin the process of articulating and codifying special laws on such subjects and to treat this endeavour with high priority. Even more relevant and effective is to have the concerned authorities deal with any violation of the laws of the country on such reckless disregard for the legislation of the Kingdom with high degree of severity. Otherwise, some Jordanians would continue to disregard all the relevant rules and regulations of the land with the same level of contempt as they have been until this late hour. The first priority is to convince the authorities to take such laws seriously before there can be any hope of persuading the people to do likewise. When security personnel start prosecuting those who wantonly disregard traffic stop signs, speeding limits, or fire arms regulations, then there will be hope that Jordanians would abide by them.

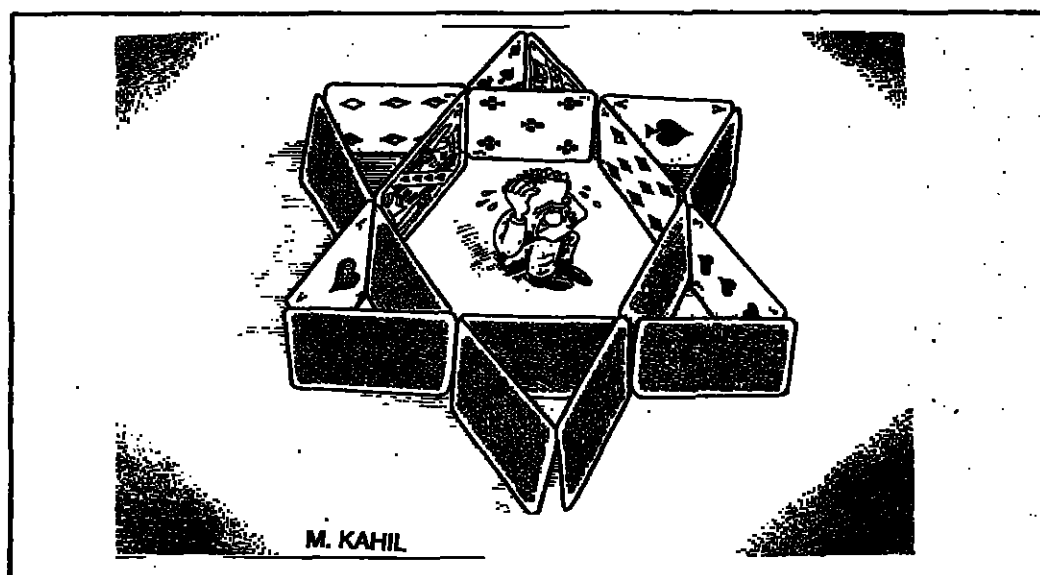
Israeli military thinking after the Gulf war

By Muhammad Ziarali

BEFORE its conclusive and overwhelming defeat in the Gulf war, Israeli military capability was viewed with apprehension and anxiety by the political and military establishment in Israel. The war relieved Israel of a threat to its security, and its leaders are busy absorbing the lessons of the conflict. The main question is: what track should Israeli military strategy follow in the wake of the Gulf war? In other words, what are the implications, in terms of budget, acquisition and doctrine, of the Gulf war for Israel's national security policy? The process of assessment in Israel may not yet be over, but there is evidence about Israeli thinking on the subject.

Israeli military officials and commentators are in no doubt that the war against Iraq was, by and large, decided by the allies' overwhelming technological superiority. On March 3, a few days after Iraq surrendered, the Jerusalem Post stated "...smart bombs, cruise missiles, night vision equipment, computerized control of weapon systems and electronic communications played major, perhaps decisive, roles." Israel's chief of staff, Dan Shomron, agreed, when he said in an interview that the conflict had shown "...the technological edge, (and) the ability of commanders to fight and manoeuvre... are the crucial elements in war." The commander of Israel's Air Force, Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, has, in the same vein, commended the U.S. capability to deliver "smart munitions" to their targets with pinpoint accuracy, during day and night, whilst the aircraft evaded radar detection. According to him, "...anyone who followed those exploits would certainly wish to adopt some of them."

The Israelis, who have traditionally sought to maintain a qualitative edge over the quantitative conventional military superiority of their Arab foes, must see in the Gulf war an endorsement of life-long doctrine. Undoubtedly, they will want to acquire many of those technologi-



cally advanced systems employed in the war. This will not be without budgetary consequences. According to some senior Israeli defence sources, the war against Iraq exposed a whole new generation of weapons systems. The development and acquisition of these new systems by the Israeli Army is one paramount factor which would necessitate an increase in Israel's defence budget.

As a result of its experience in the Gulf war, the Israeli acquisition effort is likely to be directed into specific channels. While the war did not involve Israel directly it did bring home to that country's leadership certain facts about the region's geopolitical landscape. For the first time the Israeli home front was attacked by an Arab state, from a distance, without necessitating the interlocking of the two countries' armed forces in actual combat. The Iraqi missile attacks served notice to the Israeli leadership that not only was its hinterland no longer immune from a determined Arab adversary, but also that Israel could face threats from the more distant Arab powers, rather than just its immediate neighbours.

Spy satellites
Iraq's Scud attacks on Israel obviously set in motion a series of

countermeasures. But the success of these would, above anything else, depend on early warning and real-time intelligence about an impending attack. This is a point that the Israelis are well aware of and many statements to that effect have been made since the end of the war.

The acquisition of real-time intelligence would be dependent on a spy satellite capability. Israel have already launched two satellites into space and Defence Minister Arens said after the war that Israel would soon be ready to launch another. But this is likely to prove very costly since a single satellite is unlikely to solve Israel's needs. Israeli scientists have warned that one spy satellite passing every 90 minutes over the location of missile launchers will not provide real-time information. They have indicated that the U.S. has multiple satellites with multiple functions, which can monitor a large area continuously. Israeli military sources admit that one spy satellite is only a partial solution and that they need more.

Defensive and offensive measures against the missile threat are two other lessons of the Gulf war, as far as Israel is concerned. The defensive measures are likely to be both passive and active. On the passive front, Israel is likely

to invest more in civil defence programmes and in building shelters to protect against possible chemical, biological and nuclear attacks in the future. This would be a drastic departure from the past, where the emphasis was traditionally on beefing up the army's offensive capability.

Anti-ballistic missiles

The speeding up of its anti-ballistic missile programme, which was already under way before the Gulf crisis, will be the main focus of Israel's active defensive countermeasures against the missile threat. Israel has been involved in research and development on the Arrow anti-ballistic missile system, under the aegis of the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative, and is likely to step up its efforts in this area. Immediately after the end of hostilities in the Gulf war, Admiral Dan Shomron, head of the Navy, said that the Arrow programme had to continue. Mr. Arens said "we must... defend the country's security interests, which include the defence of the home front. This is the thinking which stands behind the Arrow project, which is intended to deal with the missile threat." Israel claims the Arrow is faster, more manoeuvrable and has a much greater range than the U.S. Patriot missile deployed

with relative success during the Gulf war. It is claimed that the combination of these characteristics enables the Arrow to hit targets with less danger to civilians than the Patriot, which sometimes intercepted the incoming missiles too close to their destination. In an article, written immediately after the end of the war, in the Jerusalem Post, Yitzhak Rabin argued that, as yet, no foolproof defence against the missile attacks existed. This was all the more reason, according to him, why Israel had to defeat its enemies in a future war as quickly as possible. He goes on to write: "Why quickly? Among other reasons, because as long as the war continues, there is no certainty that the home front will not be hit by surface-to-surface missiles." Israel has always favoured decisive and quick military victories, a position now reinforced by the missile threat.

Strategic depth debate

Missile attacks right on Israel's population centres during the Gulf war have also opened up the Pundits' box of debate on the value of territorial strategic depth, and the importance of holding on to the Arab territories occupied in 1967. The passion of debate on this issue in Israel is Shakespearean indeed — to be or not to be, to give up or not to give up the land. It is an issue on which Israeli leaders and commentators are deeply divided.

One side argues that the proliferation of surface-to-surface missiles in the region has made the Israeli hinterland vulnerable to

attacks by the Arab countries possessing such systems. Hence, according to this view, the value of occupied territories, which have up to now been seen to provide Israel with strategic depth in the case of an Arab attack, has diminished. Furthermore, it is argued that, since a vast Arab population lives in the occupied territories, in fact they constitute more of a risk than a boon to Israel's security.

The other view holds that, in any future conflict, the decisive factor would be a round war and the challenge of an Arab armoured threat. According to this view, irrespective of the missile threat, the occupied territories afford Israel the necessary strategic depth to defend itself against a surprise attack. In an official publication, in April 1990, before the war, an army spokesman stated that "in the pre-1967 borders, Israel cannot be militarily defended... The pre-1967 borders do not allow the blocking of an enemy breakthrough when the initiative lies with him."

Such views, however, have been echoed by Israel's military leaders after the war as well. Dan Shomron stated that, "...the major threat to Israel... is posed by the enemy armies... and... both territory and geography are important. These long-range missiles are just one of the components of this threat and even a minor one..." Apart from its doctrinal significance, whichever side gains the upperhand in this debate, will, needless to say, have important consequences for the achievement and shape of peace in the Middle East region. — Middle East International.

LETTERS

Where is the TV?

To the Editor:

I believe the issue of censoring kissing scenes on TV is a grave indication of a social problem and, specifically, of a confused identity.

For some years now our society has been dealing with its problems in an arbitrary, circumscribing attitude. Censorship has its full share and the media's history in Jordan has its own file. However, now that we have more democracy and freedom of speech, it is ironic to witness an imposition by the TV on its viewers, knowing the fact that this kind of imposition did not exist in the pre-democracy era.

I am surprised that while this controversial issue is addressed ardently by readers, the TV chose to deal with it in a serene manner as if it were not of its interest. I would like to know from the TV censors why they decided to censor all kissing scenes regardless of their context, be it positive or negative. I think I don't have to explain the difference, it is quite obvious. Besides, Ms. Narmeen Murad (Jordan Times, letter of Sept. 21) has already explained it thoroughly.

Credulously, the supporters of the current TV policy claim that in showing kissing scenes we emulate the West. They ignore the fact that love is a universal human feeling which existed, exists and will continue to be in every culture and society till the demise of human kind. Ms. Murad has illustrated that our literature and culture are abounding with love stories. We have learned about in schools and our children will learn about them as well.

As for the mother who avoids such scenes and tries to keep her children in an artificial world, she should remember that a passive upbringing denies our children the chance to know the distinction between what is veracious and meretricious at the right stage of development. To vitiate an unforgotten human interaction within a disabusive context is not educational and would certainly have doubtful results.

A well defined exposure to adolescence will constructively eliminate a motley sacrilegious and licentious orientation. Many of the parents leading a passive approach think their children have ensconced and now it's time for quiescence. Have they?

Mahmoud Mahamneh,
Ministry of Higher Education,
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Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

PLO is changed, but how deep does the change go?

By William C. Mann
The Associated Press

ALGIERS — It looked like a different PLO that met last week to chart the Palestinian movement's future. But the new postures displayed have yet to be tested.

The bombast that characterised the PLO for so long was missing during the week-long meeting of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinians parliament-in-exile.

Leaders went out of their way to show the "new" Palestine Liberation Organisation is flexible and realistic. In actions, if not words, they discarded the "three no's" that have been the PLO's creed since 1967: "no to negotiations, no to recognition, no to reconciliation" with Israel.

The first break in that solid wall appeared in 1988, when PLO leader Yasser Arafat, desperate to talk with the United States, reluctantly recognised the Jewish state's right to exist.

A hint of desperation was in the air this time, too, as Mr. Arafat and his lieutenants manoeuvred to maintain their traditional central position in the Middle East peace equation.

The council endorsed a U.S.-organised peace conference planned for this month. It yielded to Israeli demands that the PLO not flaunt its role in choosing Palestinian negotiators and reportedly agreed that all come from within the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Previous PLO "conditions" for participation, like Israeli withdrawal, were announced as apparently negotiable "aims."

Change is nothing new to the PLO. As most Arab countries lined up against Iraq in the Gulf war, the moderate PLO of 1988 transformed itself into-President Saddam Hussein's ally. And just last month, the PLO praised coup plotters in the Soviet Union, apparently hoping for a return to Moscow's patronage.

Walid Kazziba, a professor at the American University in Cairo, sees weakness over the occupation, which has lasted 24 years, as the key to the latest shifts within the PLO.

"The PNC is not reflecting the wishes of the Palestinians in the diaspora so much as the feelings of those living under Israeli occupation," Mr. Kazziba said. "Those people living under

Israeli occupation have modest demands. They would like to wake up one morning and see that those Israeli soldiers are not looking at them over the barrel of a gun."

"I don't see any change of heart in the PLO, but there's a practical change. It's plain that this is tactical," said American PLO expert Barry Rubin.

Mr. Rubin, a fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute of Johns Hopkins University, said: "they're undoubtedly hoping the peace conference will break down, but they're going along because they have no choice... they did what they had to do to survive."

He cited catastrophic losses of financial and political support from the PLO's traditional Arab patrons as well as a de facto withering of its control of Palestinians in the territories.

"Mr. Arafat himself, who brought on much of the PLO's woes with his decision to side with Iraq in its showdown last year with the West, spoke plaintively of his organisation's predicament."

"Don't you see how difficult these days are how difficult

you're experiencing?" he asked recalcitrant colleagues. "We are facing only two options, and both of them are suicide."

When the ballots were counted, 96 per cent of the 331 council members who voted approved the statement authorising Palestinian negotiators to attend the peace conference in a joint delegation with Jordan. It was another major concession for the PLO.

But the document papered over deep rifts within the organisation, some within Mr. Arafat's own Fatah faction. Speaker after speaker at the council meeting rallied at the distasteful vote that lay before them.

Despite the Palestinian movement's current turmoil, Mr. Arafat appeared to emerge from the Algiers meeting with his leadership firmly in place.

The 62-year-old chairman and many others spoke repeatedly of improving democracy within the movement. But any mention of change at the top, even by hard-line opponents, was directed not at him but at those around him. The prevailing feeling appeared to be that there's nobody else to take the reins.

Baker to meet Hussein, Ashrawi

(Continued from page 1)

along with other senior PLO officials for talks with King Hussein and the Jordanian prime minister, said Mr. Arafat was probably visit Jordan on Saturday or Sunday.

It would be Mr. Arafat's first trip to the Kingdom since the PNC decision to back the conference and a crucial step to announcing a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to the talks.

Jordan has offered the umbrella of a joint team to bypass Israel's refusal to deal with the PLO. Progress has been slowed by further assurances the Palestinians are seeking from Baker.

Mr. Arafat said the PLO was still hoping for a meeting of key Arab heads of state expected to be held in Damascus to try to

strengthen their position ahead of the proposed peace talks.

"We think it's a positive indication that Syria has accepted this idea. We have not yet received an official invitation to hold this meeting but we expect that before the end of this month the meeting will be held," he said.

Syria accused Israel Sunday of blocking efforts to convene the peace conference and said the world should confront Israeli occupation of Arab lands with the same firmness it showed against Iraq's seizure of Kuwait.

Vice-President Zuhair Masharqa told a rally marking the 18th anniversary of the 1973 war that double standards would not lead to stability and peace in the Middle East and the world.

"While Arabs and the whole world are working to achieve a

just and comprehensive peace in the region, Israel continues to challenge the world community by issuing aggressive and hostile statements, continuing to build settlements and increasing its combat capabilities," he said.

"The world community which condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and supported the implementation of U.N. resolutions is now required to support Arabs to achieve a full Israeli pullout from the occupied Arab lands and guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with U.N. resolutions."

Mr. Masharqa called on Arabs to close ranks to achieve victory in what he called this "political battle" against Israel.

Mr. Masharqa urged Arabs to support Syria and the frontline states facing Israel.

"Zionism aims at establishing greater Israel from the River Nile to River Euphrates," he said.

British youth hooked on deadly 'joy-riding'

By Anne Senior
Reuter

LONDON — A deadly new addiction has struck British youth, spreading outrage and terror among poorer communities, social workers and police.

It is a social habit, practised by teenagers looking for thrills and a chance to prove their manhood.

Dozens have died already, not from any drug overdose or solvent abuse — but at the wheel of a stolen car.

The new crime craze sweeping Britain's rundown inner cities and housing estates on the fringes of country towns is called "joy-riding," driving stolen cars at breakneck speed for kicks.

Thieves, some as young as 13, choose the most potent status symbol of modern society, the high-performance car, to tear around the streets and perform rally-style tricks — called "hotting" — for an audience of appreciative friends.

The joy-riding fad has pushed up Britain's crime figures, with latest government statistics showing a big surge in car crime.

Car theft accounted for a third of the 4.9 million crimes reported in the year to June.

The most extreme and dangerous form of crime is known as "ram-raiding" — where a stolen car is smashed deliberately into the front of a shop which is then looted.

To the youngsters, joy-riding is a sport that gives the drivers a "buzz" and a tough reputation. To the police it is a crime committed by thugs who are a danger to society.

"The term joy-rider suggests it's a fun thing to do and there's no real harm in it," said Police Federation Chairman Alan Eastwood. "In fact, these people should be equated with everyone else who kills in the course of a crime."

The federation says innocent people have been killed by cars driven by the so-called joy-riders. One victim, a nurse whose car was rammed by teenagers out on a hotting spree, was left writhing in the wreckage when the culprits

ran off. She died later in hospital.

"How many more will they kill?" asked the Daily Mail in a front-page headline next day, and called for tougher penalties to deter youths from getting the joy-riding bug.

At present joy-riding is not a crime in its own right and culprits may be charged with a variety of offences such as theft, criminal damage or causing death by reckless driving.

"Cars are not toys for idle teenagers. They can be lethal weapons," the newspaper said. "The courts must be empowered and encouraged to punish with deterrent severity those who not only steal cars but brandish them like dangerous weapons."

Home Secretary Kenneth Baker, who until recently was blaming rising car theft on owners not locking their car doors, has promised a police crackdown on the phenomenon. But strong-arm tactics could escalate into mob violence on the tense housing estates where youths congregate for their hotting displays.

Joy-riding rose to national prominence as one of the sparks which set off a summer of rioting and vandalism in Britain.

The deaths of two teenagers joy-riders whose stolen car crashed during a police chase touched off a week of rioting in the northeast city of Newcastle.

Television pictures of boys torching buildings, terrorising their neighbours and staging "hotting" displays in stolen cars in defiance of the police, turned the spotlight on Britain's disaffected youth and made joy-riding a subject for earnest discussion among psychologists and politicians.

Poverty, unemployment and inner city deprivation have all been cited as factors in the craze. Probation officers who work with the boys say they are social outcasts who get hooked on the thrill of high-speed driving and the adulation of an audience.

These arguments cut little ice with police. "The service is sick of the portrayal of these people as poor, bored youngsters," said Mr. Eastwood. "They are thieves and things who don't give a damn for anyone."

Egypt's desert businessmen wage war on food imports

By John West
Reuter

DINA — Sitting in a comfortable armchair under a tree on a large lawn in the middle of the desert, Hussein Ahmad Othman explained his company's plans to end Egypt's chronic dependence on food imports.

"If 100 others take up our example and reclaim desert lands, we can end food imports in 10 years," he said. "The desert is this country's future."

Egypt, a net food exporter in the 1950s, now spends over a billion dollars a year importing two thirds of its needs.

Private firms have increasingly stepped into reclamation where the government's grand schemes have faltered. Pushed by rocketing food demand and pulled by the prestige of conquering the desert, Egypt has been reclaiming desert land since 1954.

But problems wracked the state projects. They took longer, cost more and yielded less than expected — observers say the land recovered only just equalled the area lost to bulging cities in Egypt's traditional agricultural seat of the Nile Delta.

"We, the private sector, can do it. Why not?" asked Mr. Othman, who became first chairman of the Modern Agricultural Development Company in 1987.

"All you see is made by private investment. We laid the roads and water pipes. We make our own electricity."

Adel Al Beltagi, a senior Agriculture Ministry official, said the onus was increasingly on the private sector. The government, as part of moves towards a free market economy, is now selling off its projects and giving private firms a 15-year tax holiday.

"Private land reclamation has increased ... in the past four years," he said. "We don't have the resources in the state sector."

Private companies, which can pay higher wages to motivate staff and are unhampered by bureaucracy, now account for 40 per cent of all new land reclamation, Mr. Beltagi said, and the percentage is still rising.

An hour's drive from Cairo on the desert road to Alexandria, Dina farm stretches eight kilometres into the dusty interior. Sprinklers feed circles of maize and alfalfa a kilometre wide off water pumped from directly below the ground.

New buses with the farm's logo ship 1,050 workers up and down a network of roads, past herds of cows outside milking sheds, orchards, a processing and freezing factory, and religious phrases painted brightly on placards standing like road signs.

Just beyond lies the desert.

"We operate integrated agriculture," said the grey-haired Othman, whose elder brother Hussein Ahmad Othman is one of Egypt's most successful self-made entrepreneurs. "Corn stalks are processed into animal fodder. From our milk, we make Edam cheese under licence from a Dutch company."

He predicted the project would return its Egyptian investors' 30 million pound (\$9 million) start-up capital in seven years, or by 1994. Next year, the farm will expand from 10,000 to 40,000 hectares, cutting further into the desert.

Some scientists say land re-

clamation can only work in the short term. Eventually, as water drawn from beneath the ground evaporates on the surface, the water table will drop too far and, millions of dollars later, the desert will reclaim its own, they say.

Government officials and the private firms dispute this, using different calculations to show that most water used sinks back into the earth, and so keeps the cycle going.

"We don't want ghost towns," Mr. Beltagi said. "Our projects at Awainat in the western desert have enough water for at least 100 years, that's sure."

Mr. Othman, in any case, has a radical answer to the debate:

"If they let us channel the Nile into desert, we could triple Egypt's agricultural land," he said. "We are three times more efficient with water than the Nile Delta lands."

He said Dina was negotiating with the government.

For the moment, the company is limiting itself to building luxury tourist farms — plots farmed by a company but with a luxury villa to be rented out as a holiday home — and a 20,000 seat sports stadium.

"We plan a whole community here," Mr. Othman said.

Gorbachev matches Bush moves

(Continued from page 1)

key issues such as submarine-based long-range missiles, where the West enjoys enormous superiority, were clearly set aside.

But his 12-minute speech contained substantial initiatives.

Mr. Gorbachev said he would cut strategic warheads to 5,000 rather than the 6,000 recently agreed under one-third cuts with the U.S. in the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START).

"Of course, we would welcome an analogous approach on the part of the United States of America, too. We propose that

immediately after the ratification of the (START) treaty, intensive talks be begun on further radical cuts by approximately 50 per cent," Mr. Gorbachev said.

Mr. Gorbachev issued concessions with an implicit call on NATO to drop its strategy of "flexible response," allowing for the use of any action, including nuclear weapons, to beat off an overwhelming Soviet attack. He called on all nuclear powers to join Moscow in pledging not to use nuclear arms first.

He backed his call by announcing that Soviet forces would be

cut by 700,000 men to about three million.

His speech took a surprising turn when he dropped a long-time Soviet insistence there could be no cooperation in any project that could comprise part of anti-missile defence systems known popularly in the West as "Star Wars."

"We proposed to the American side that the possibility of creating joint systems to avert nuclear missile strikes with ground and space based elements be examined also," he said.

All tactical nuclear weapons would be withdrawn from surface ships, matching U.S. measures, and from submarines.

Mr. Gorbachev also froze the number of heavy intercontinental missiles with multiple warheads. Those missiles mounted on railway tracks to allow them to be moved around avoiding detection would be kept at their present positions.

Washington has called on Moscow to eliminate all long-range multiple warhead missiles — rockets that can fire large numbers of individually-targeted warheads onto cities or enemy nuclear sites. Western experts feel these missiles, core of Moscow's nuclear arsenal, present a threat of a first strike.

Israeli soldiers kill 2 Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

not afraid to die," he said.

At this point five relatives of one dead soldier surged forward and the judge cleared the court.

He later returned to sentence Mr. Sharrath to life imprisonment plus 30 years.

Israeli soldiers fatally shot a 10-year-old Palestinian boy in the head during a stone throwing clash in the Shati refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, hospital officials said.

They identified the victim as Mohammad Bashir Salim Al Hendy. Two Palestinian teen-

agers were wounded in the same clash, the officials said.

The army confirmed the death and said it was investigating the circumstances.

In the occupied West Bank refugee camp of Balata, soldiers shot dead Haled Hassan Abdul Rahman Hadouryan, 24, a fugitive who had been wanted for some time," the army said.

Arab reports said the soldiers were disguised as Arab women and wounded four residents of the camp during the shooting.

U.S. draft letter upsets Israelis

(Continued from page 1)

The newspaper said controversy arose on the subject again this weekend after Mr. Shamir received a copy of draft agreement between the U.S. and Israel on the peace talks.

Israel has sought U.S. assurances that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would be excluded from peace talks by allowing Israel a say which Palestinians participate. Israel also wants American guarantees it would not be forced to withdraw from Arab lands it occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

In the draft however, Israel is asked to acknowledge "it is aware that it will have no veto rights over the Palestinian delegation," the newspaper said.

Israel is also reportedly asked to acknowledge "the United States doesn't recognise the annexation of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, and these topics should be open to negotiation between the parties."

The government source, asked about the report, said: "It is true there are some points we still

have not agreed on and contacts are continuing with Washington. We will try to resolve these points when Baker comes."

The issue of Palestinian representation at the conference is "one of the points that isn't closed," the source said, declining to comment specifically on whether Washington opposed giving Israel a say about Palestinian delegates.

The most outspoken critic of U.S. policy Sunday was Science Minister Yuval Neeman who wryly suggested in an Israel Radio interview that the peace conference Washington was trying to convene should be held in Munich.

"I think this is the appropriate place," he said, referring to the site of a 1938 agreement between Britain and Nazi Germany which allowed the Nazi takeover of parts of Eastern Europe.

"The United States has proposed, and is not hiding this — that it in fact accepts the Arab position on almost all issues," Mr. Neeman said. "There is no reason we should accept a mediator who leans to the other side."

Hizbollah

(Continued from page 1)

"But in my opinion, the hostages have no influence of this extent on the conference," he said.

He said the mission of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to arrange for a swap of Western hostages for Arab prisoners has not been halted, although it may have run into snags.

"It is possible that a foreign hostage might be released soon, as it is possible that Israel might free some detainees," the Shiite leader said. "The mission has not stopped. There might be some obstacles but it hasn't stopped."

On Saturday, Iran's official news agency reported that Israel will soon release a group of Arab detainees in exchange for a Western hostage, possibly an American.

But the report followed a statement by Israel's chief hostage negotiator that the Jewish state would not free more Arabs until it has full accounting on its servicemen missing in Lebanon.

Israel is still seeking information on four other servicemen, most of them believed dead.

Iraq may still be working on nuclear arms — Ekeus

(Continued from page 1)

back in Baghdad from western Iraq Sunday in the helicopter.

"They had important findings yesterday of non-declared material," Mr. Ekeus said. He declined to give further details.

Mr. Ekeus said it was in Iraq's interests to cooperate with the U.N. inspectors as this could speed up the lifting of the trade blockade imposed after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"There is a serious difference between the United Nations and the Iraqi authorities. We have a clear perception of a nuclear weapons development programme," Mr. Ekeus said after his talks with Mr. Aziz Saturday.

He told reporters the seized documents still had to be fully analysed "but studies appear to be clear evidence of a nuclear weapons development programme."

But he said Iraqi officials denied that Iraq was building a nuclear weapon. "They talked about research, they deny it was a weapons programme," he said.

Iraq's media still bristles at the name of David Kay, a Texan who led the U.N. team which was penned in a Baghdad car park for four days because it refused to give up documents it had taken from a records office.

Iraq says Mr. Kay was a spy for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Iraq's press says he proved this when he said he sent documents to the U.S.

State Department before relaying them to the United Nations and its atomic agency in Vienna.

The question which Iraqi journalists put to Mr. Ekeus, who is seeking Iraq's cooperation in scrapping its weapons of mass destruction, was: Who will lead the next U.N. inspection team?

Mr. Ekeus indicated that it would not be Mr. Kay, although he defended his actions.

Israel sees lower Soviet immigration

(Continued from page 1)

he said.

"They're coming to be reunited with family and also because of their hopes for a better life in Israel for themselves and their children, and increased Jewish identity because of a renaissance Jewish community in the Soviet Union."

He said the new arrivals would eventually increase Israel's Jewish population by 25 per cent and with it the need for U.S. loan guarantees to help integrate them.

A total of 9,877 Soviet Jews came in September, bringing the

total for the year to 116,711. Some 8,943 came in August, 11,224 in July and 20,473 in June, the Jewish Agency said.

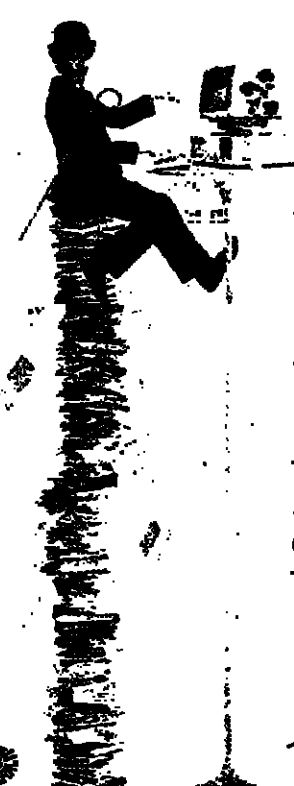
Since the Soviet immigration wave began in mid-1989, about 315,000 immigrated to Israel, out of a total of 360,000 new arrivals from all around the world.

Of the 360,000, about 120,000 are looking for work, the vast majority of them Soviets, said Ida Ben-Shetret, spokeswoman for the immigrant absorption ministry.

Many Soviets have accepted menial jobs while looking for appropriate work.

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Edberg beats Gilbert with ease to win Australian Indoor title

SYDNEY (R) — Sweden's Stefan Edberg underlined why he is the world's top-ranked player by clinically beating ninth-seeded American Brad Gilbert in straight sets to win the Australian Indoor Tennis Championship Sunday.

Edberg picked up a pay cheque of \$122,700 for an easy day's work. Gilbert was unable to find the fighting reserves he showed in his three-set semi-final win over fellow American Pete Sampras.

Edberg's sixth tournament win of the year was all over in 97 minutes, the 6-2 6-2 6-2 victory taking the 25-year-old Swede's earnings this year to nearly \$1.5 million.

He took the first set in only 31 minutes after breaking the 30-year-old Gilbert in the third and seventh games, then ran through the second set in 37 minutes after again breaking the Californian's serve twice to lead 3-0.

Edberg has now 12 tournament matches in a row including his U.S. Open campaign in September. He kept up the onslaught in the third set, opening with a service break in the first game to cruise through the set and wrap up the match.

Gilbert, who has slipped to 25 in the rankings this year, had beaten Edberg in Los Angeles at their meeting in July but he had no answer to the champion's precision serve-and-volley game.

The normally taciturn Swede, who has won five Grand Slam titles, was elated at winning his first Australian indoor title, throwing his tennis shirt to the

9,000 crowd after the trophy presentation.

"It was a match where I felt in control pretty much all the way, once I got the break in the third game, I played better and better," Edberg said.

"I didn't try to do anything fancy, I made a lot of first serves and a lot of volleys," he added.

Saturday night's two-and-a-half-hour marathon three-set match against big-serving Goran Ivanisevic did not appear to have any effect on him.

"I felt good within myself when I woke up, I was ready to go out and play," he said.

The Swede, who has swapped the number one ranking five times in the last year with Germany's Boris Becker, said he felt more comfortable with his top status after the match.

Gilbert agreed. "I think he will be able to keep his top ranking for a long time now, especially with Becker not playing here," the American said after the game.

Edberg's win extends his lead over Becker in the complex IBM Australian Tennis Professionals (ATP) rankings system.

The Australian Indoor is the first of five major indoor tournaments he will be playing, culminating with the ATP Tour finals in Frankfurt.

Becker, who missed this tournament because of a persistent back injury, has said he will be back in the Seiko Super Tennis Tournament in Tokyo later this week.



Stefan Edberg

Gilbert, who had shown a tenacious fighting spirit all week, particularly in his game against third-seeded Sampras, admitted he was uninspired and was disappointed that he had let down the crowd. Although he saved five match points in the final set, it had no influence on the outcome of the game.

"I was a little flat today, the

guy played too well but if someone has to beat you, it's good that it's the number one player in the world," Gilbert said. Edberg, who doesn't drink when he's on tour, said his celebration plans were simple. "I will be in row four or five on an aeroplane, sleeping." His Tokyo campaign gets under way Wednesday.

Suave Dancer wins Arc de Triomphe showdown

PARIS (R) — Suave Dancer survived a stewards' inquiry to win Sunday's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe horse race with a punishing burst of speed.

He beat arch rival Generous by about 10 lengths and proved himself one of the best middle distance colts in Europe for years.

Cash Asmussen, riding his first Arc winner, gave Suave Dancer his head with 300 metres remaining in the 12-furlong (2.4 km) test. The pair were not hard pressed to hold off the filly Magic Night, the mount of Alain Bachel, by two lengths.

Pistolet Bleu, who had raced with pacemaker Art Bleu for

much of the trip, finished third another length away, ridden by Dominique Boenf.

French Derby winner Suave Dancer swerved towards the rails in the final 50 metres, but it did not seem to hamper Magic Night in her effort and the stewards quickly confirmed the placings.

The big disappointment was English Derby winner Generous, who had beaten Suave Dancer by three lengths in the Irish Derby in June.

After showing prominently into the straight, the colt finished eighth in the 14-strong field with jockey Alan Munro reporting he was "never firing."

Whitaker retains world title

RENO, Nevada (R) — Pernell "Sweet Pea" Whitaker retained his undisputed world lightweight boxing title by dominating a charging Jorge Paez Saturday to score a unanimous 12-round points decision over the Mexican challenger.

It was Whitaker's 10th and last defence of the title he unified in August 1990. He has announced plans to move up to junior welterweight for his next fight.

From the first round, Paez attacked relentlessly and, often wildly. But the classy American caught most of the blows and stung Paez repeatedly with the jab which he said afterwards controlled the fight.

According to computerised scoring Whitaker threw 325 jabs, landing 78. Paez threw just four jabs and landed only one.

Paez's best round was the fourth which all three judges awarded him. But by the fifth, Whitaker was doing most of the scoring, hurting Paez repeatedly with a left uppercut and body shots.

Whitaker vowed before the fight to make Paez pay for any of the ring antics which have become his trademark. But, for the most part, Paez was all business.

pushing Whitaker backwards around the ring and attacking with furious combinations.

As the fight progressed, Paez grew increasingly frustrated by Whitaker's boxing skills. In later rounds, he grunted visibly at the repeated body shots and was bothered even more by a cut over his right eye caused by an accidental butt.

Paez's frustration boiled over in the final round as he flailed away at Whitaker along the ropes after referee Mills Lane ordered them to separate. Lane deducted a point from Paez.

Whitaker too lost a point — in the 11th round after pushing Paez's head down in a clinch.

Neither fighter was knocked down nor ever in danger of being knocked out.

Judge Keith McDonald scored the fight 116-110, Patricia Jarman 115-112 and Chuck Giampa 115-111, all for Whitaker.

Although he lost, Paez won Whitaker's respect.

Whitaker said "it was the best lightweight fight I ever had," and he credited Paez.

Paez said he proved a lot in the bout. "Everybody thought I was a clown. I proved today I can fight."

Papin's double helps Marseille to league top

PARIS (R) — Two second-half goals by ace marksman Jean-Pierre Papin helped Marseille French Ligue 1 to go to the top of the French Soccer League.

Overnight leaders Monaco, who lost 2-0 at home to Toulouse, dropped to second place one point behind the French champions.

England's Trevor Steven opened the scoring for French champions Marseille after 14 minutes and veteran Daniel Knebel made it 2-0 10 minutes later.

Papin scored twice, with a superb volley in the 72nd minute and again one minute before time.

Marseille, criticised for their relatively poor start this season, were impressive with England's Chris Waddle, back in action after a heel injury, enchanting the 25,000 home crowd with some fine dribbling. Brazilian sweeper Carlos Mozzer was again sent off after a couple of vicious tackles.

"The players showed how well they could play," said trainer Tomislav Ivic.

"I've always said that one had to be patient," said Marseille boss Bernard Tapie. "The team is

great but it's not over and Monaco are very strong contenders for the title," he added.

Monaco seemed happy to settle for a goalless draw and promising "Boulogne" striker, Anthony Bancel opened the scoring with six minutes left. He added another in the last minute to inflict on Monaco their third defeat of the season.

Paris St Germain suffered their first defeat when they lost 3-2 at home to Toulon.

Two goals by Daniel Bravo and France's Christian Perez against a goal by Toulon's Patrick Revellès gave the Paris club a 2-1 advantage until the closing stages. But Joel Blanc and Argentine Leonardo Rodriguez scored in the 87th and 89th minute respectively to give Toulon a hard-fought victory.

"Okay, we've lost, but the world won't stop turning," said St Germain co-chairman Michel Demot. "It's just an accident."

Three spectators were slightly injured at the Rennes stadium after a smoke grenade started a fire. Rennes beat Caen 1-0.

Hirst inspires Sheffield Wednesday to crushing win

LONDON (R) — If England Manager Graham Taylor needs any reminding ahead of the European Championship qualifier against Turkey, David Hirst can still score goals.

The Sheffield Wednesday striker, who had barely kicked a ball in anger for the past month, bounced back with a vengeance Saturday with Crystal Palace on the receiving end.

Hirst, twice capped by England, scored twice in the 4-1 home win to keep Wednesday among the English League elite.

"With the sort of running he did, his mother in law could happily combine with him at the moment," declared one commentator after Hirst ran rings around the palace defence.

The goals were also a timely reminder for Taylor, already wondering what to do about a severely injury-depleted side ahead of the match against Turkey at Wembley this month.

Frankfurt stays at top

BERLIN (AP) — Anthony Yeboah scored in the 73rd minute to lift Eintracht Frankfurt to a 2-1 victory over VfB Stuttgart Saturday in a game between the Bundesliga leaders.

Norwegian striker Joern Anderson scored the game-tying goal in the 60th minute, two minutes after entering the match as a substitute.

Hirst's lack of match practice may keep him out of an England side which needs plenty of goals in its bid to qualify for next year's finals, but his return after missing seven games with an ankle injury is a blessing for Wednesday at least.

Hirst was top scorer with 24 goals last season as Wednesday won promotion and the League Cup, beating Manchester United in the final, and they have struggled to score in his absence.

Saturday's win kept Wednesday level with third-placed Arsenal, six points behind leaders United and was only the second time this season they have scored more than two goals.

Manager Trevor Francis was full of praise for the player who scored in Australia on his England debut last summer.

"It was a remarkable comeback by David, who has been out for a month and has had only two or three days training. To return in this manner is tremendous."

Hirst's is not the only tremendous performance at the Yorkshire Club. Francis has made an excellent start in his second managerial stint since taking over this season from Ron Atkinson.

Francis had a torrid baptism to soccer management when he took over at Queen's Park Rangers in 1988, and left in 1990 after failing to gain the players' respect and support for his style of leadership.

He returned to playing at 36

and then found himself given another chance as a manager when Atkinson left for Aston Villa during the off-season.

Saturday's matches showed there was no shortage of contenders to partner Gary Lineker up front for England against Turkey on Oct. 16.

Lineker scored his 12th goal of the season to head the first division's goalscoring list, but could not prevent Tottenham going down to their first away defeat of the season 3-1 at Everton.

Former England striker Tony Cottee scored all three Everton goals, but another former England man, Beardsley, also came in for warm praise.

Beardsley, who has scored eight goals in the last seven games, was the architect behind Everton's triumph and Tottenham manager Peter Shreeves ended the growing call for the former Liverpool player to return as Lineker's partner.

"It was a vintage show by Beardsley. He has been a super signing for Everton and full credit to him. He's such a fine player," said Shreeves.

But it may be Ian Wright who wins Taylor's selection after grabbing his fifth goal in three games since joining Arsenal from Crystal Palace for \$2.5 million (\$4.3 million).

His goal two minutes after half-time drew Arsenal level with Chelsea and spurred them on to a 3-2 win after trailing 2-0.

Since losing their first home league game for almost 18

months last month, Arsenal have enjoyed a goal feast, scoring 16 in four successive wins.

But Chelsea manager Ian Porterfield complained that a controversial penalty changed the game and cost his side victory.

"We started very well and when you are two goals up, you don't expect to lose," he said.

"The turning point was the penalty. It changed the game. We thought it was a bit harsh and so did they. The ball just came in and hit Vinny Jones on the arm. We were all upset by that."

Leeds remain second, three points behind Manchester United, but they came close to throwing away victory as Bottom club Sheffield United fought back from 4-0 down to 4-3.

Ireland international Tony Cascarino was sent off four minutes after scoring his first goal for Glasgow Celtic in their 3-1 victory over previously unbeaten Scottish League leaders Hearts.

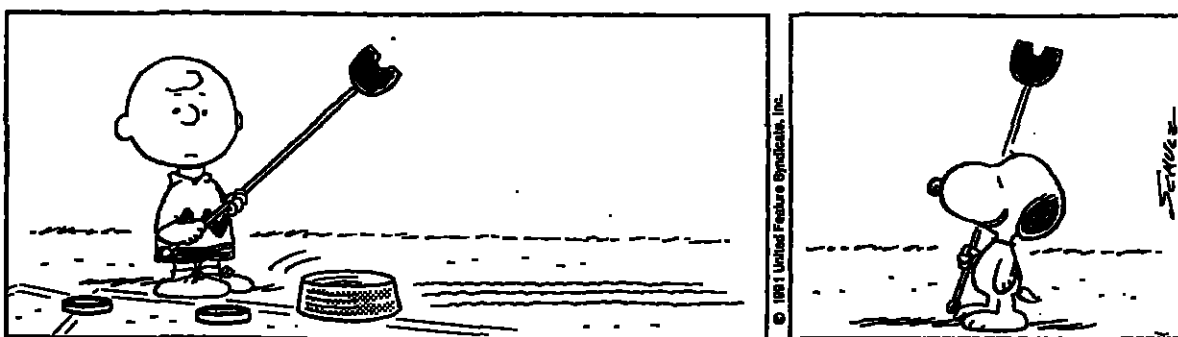
Hearts, who had won all five of their away league games this season, were dislodged from the top on goal difference by Aberdeen, who beat St Mirren 4-1.

Cascarino, who had waited 10 games to break his duck since joining Celtic from English side Aston Villa, scored within two minutes of coming on as a 66th minute substitute.

He was sent off after elbowing an opponent in the face.

Glasgow Rangers, who Aberdeen knocked out of Europe in midweek, won 4-0 at Airdrie to remain third.

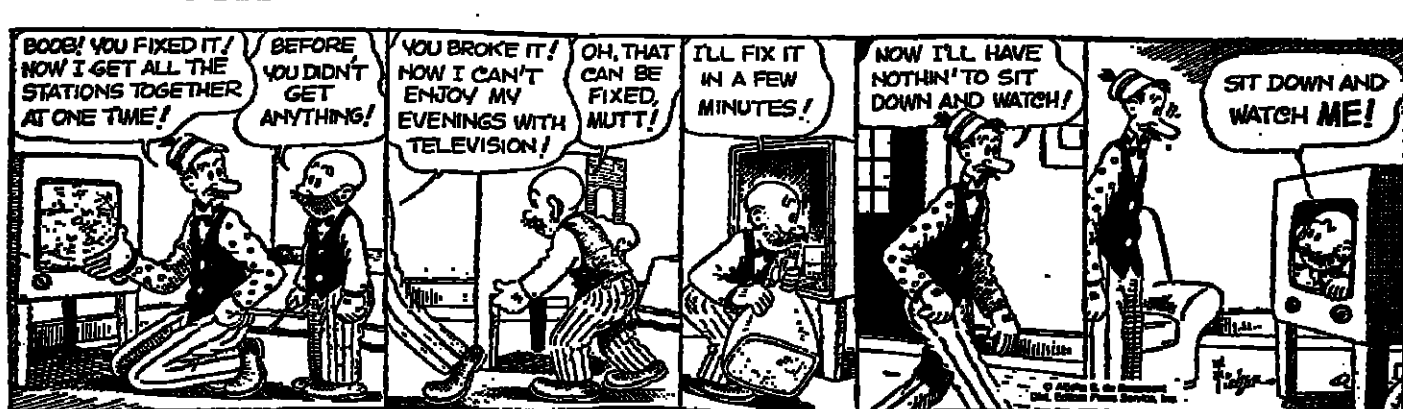
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1991

By Thomas S. Plerson, Astrologer, Carroll Flight Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The New Moon in Libra is poorly aspected and you could be in for difficulties with those with whom you are closely aligned who are expecting a lot from your input right away.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Strange conditions with a partner can cause some unwanted conditions to exist unless you make a point to hold steady to accepted relationships.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) You want to relax and to quietly investigate and smell over what is going on about you but some situation arises that seems to call for action on your part.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is your time to make sure that you do handle those about in a bright and sparkling manner so you can eliminate some of their worst.

SCORPIO CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You grow have that urge to change houses in midstream, especially where some conditions that involves your family is concerned.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is your time to make sure that you do understand, value and appreciate your usual allies as well as some recent newcomers who are very different from you.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever requires more effort on your part to have a greater prosperity is good if you get the good will and active assistance of your associates.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have a chamber who expects you to

do what he/she desires which is all right so long as it does not contravene principles important to you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is the moment to make sure that you do open up a whole new set of circumstances by which to get your projects done more easily.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever you would like to do that does mean joining with pals and the one you love the most is excellent now but don't judge appearances too hastily.

CAPIREORN: (December 22 to January 20) Show that you do value the good of this or that clever bigwig who has it in his power to release to you the information and backing you need.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your mind is sharp and keen and working overtime to get the answers that may be necessary in order to being about some improved ideals under which to operate.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Changes in your financial set-up are now possible and you can bring your greater security and prosperity.

Today's challenge: If your child were born today like or he wants everything to be very detailed on a perfectionist basis. This meticulous progeny needs to keep in mind the realistic concept in back of what they attempt to accomplish otherwise there is too much emphasis upon small particulars and the larger picture gets blurred.

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SKUYD

REBALZ

LIRIXE



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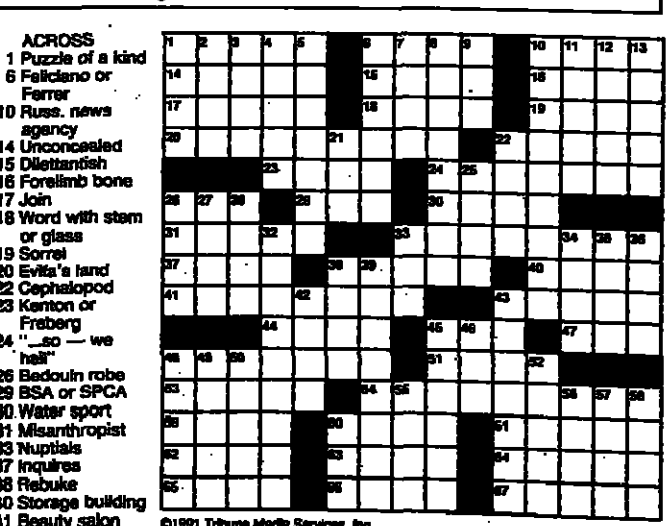
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: LATHE RUMMY OUTBID ELEVEN

Answer: What kind of business was that bookshop dependent on?—"VOLUME"

THE Daily Crossword

by William Canine



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

100% AMAY PAIPAL
PARACHUTE AIRMAN
STORE TERRA AER
IMPURE BIRD
HEAD BOND BODIE
CAR PARACHUTE AIR
PARACHUTE AIR
TRABAR PARACHUTE
CAR BOND BODIE
AMAY PAIPAL
PARACHUTE AIR
PARACHUTE AIR
PARACHUTE AIR

48 Pretend
49 "It's" — never
50 After figure
51 "Plunge"
52 Cereal grass
53 Cry of pain
54 Missing: abbr.
55 Icelandic poetry
56 Musical
57 Plunge
58 Cry of pain
59 Missing: abbr.

Financial Markets
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Foreign Exchange Market Summary (September 30-October 4, 1991)

AMMAN — While markets continued to focus on the U.S. September employment report which was released Friday, the dollar was range-bound in an eventful trading session, for the third consecutive week. It ended the week as average 0.43 per cent higher against major European currencies. A shift in market focus toward the yen during the second half of the week, caused the Japanese unit to end the week more than 2.5 per cent higher than all major currencies.

The dollar's drop the previous Friday accentuated the yen's recent sentiment towards it. Monday, it rebounded slightly in late New York trading as traders covered short positions. Observers attributed the dollar's rebound to a variety of reasons, ranging from failure to breach support at 1.66 marks, news that President Gorbachev threatened to resign and yen strength against the mark.

The U.S. currency ended higher Tuesday, despite a day of quiet, uneventful trading. The Bank of Japan (BOJ) announced a reduction in the reserve ratio required from commercial banks and other financial institutions, a step in line with market expectations of an easing of BOJ monetary policy. The release of September's Purchasing Management Index later in New York revealed a rise of a mere 0.2 per cent whereas the Index of Leading Economic Indicators remained unchanged. Being in line with market expectations, said data failed to impact the market.

Wednesday on the other hand witnessed a change in focus towards the Japanese, rather than the German unit as a strong alternative holding currency. Speculation evolved that the Group of Seven countries are likely to seek to push the yen higher, at their upcoming Oct. 12 meeting, in an attempt to curb the ever widening Japanese trade surplus. An international economist was quoted in this respect as saying that a 10 per cent rise in the yen would be required to bring the surplus down. A rise of 6.7 per cent in August's New Single Family Home Sales in the USA, combined with a four-times upward revision in July's figures to a 2.7 per cent drop, provided some support to the dollar.

Thursday took the U.S. unit sharply down to reach its lowest closing levels against most major European currencies at 1.6636 marks and 1.7520 dollars to the pound sterling. The move was reversed sharply Friday, as the dollar ended the week at its highest closing levels against European currencies, while dropping to its lowest closing level against the yen. Observers attributed the rise to technical adjustments rather than a change in sentiment towards it. The dollar, they said, had been oversold in anticipation of negative September employment results. The release of reasonably positive figures therefore served as a catalyst for a wave of dollar short covering. U.S. Non-Farm Payrolls rose by 24,000 in September, close to expectations, while the unemployment rate dropped from 6.8 per cent to 6.7 per cent. Analysts maintained that the improvement remained anemic compared to past recoveries, during which monthly employment growth of at least 200,000 was standard. Hence, they added, a dollar interest rate cut remains a possibility. The yen's rally, on the other hand, came on continuing speculation that the Group of Seven members would push for a strong Japanese unit.

As for this week, expectations are for a soft dollar on the one hand, and a stronger yen on the other. A rise in the Japanese currency to 75.00 yen to the mark 77.35 yen on Friday and 79.77 yen the previous Friday cannot be ruled out, according to some observers.

Italian budget bill for 1992 starts rough passage through parliament

ROME (R) — Italy's tough 1992 budget bill, aimed at keeping the country abreast of its European Community (EC) partners, has started its hazardous journey through parliament.

Economists gave a guarded welcome to Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti's plans to contain Italy's budget deficit by making overhauls in public spending, including health services.

But many fear that the more radical proposals will be watered down by politicians already looking ahead to general elections next year.

Deputies traditionally take months to approve budget bills and have the power to make substantial changes.

The bill was finalised only after

months of squabbling among the four ruling coalition parties. Unions have already raised the spectre of strikes later this year if plans to hold wage increases for public employees down to 4.5 per cent go ahead.

"There are some very good intentions in the bill but will they be carried out?" asked Kleinwort Benson economist Enrico Pozzone in London.

"If they reach the statute book it will be extremely positive but I don't think anyone believes they will," he pointed out.

The plan is to save some 60 trillion lire (\$55 billion) through spending cuts and increased revenue, along with around 15 trillion lire (\$13.6 billion) of privatisations.

This should keep the overall budget deficit down to around this year's estimated level of 128 trillion lire (\$116 billion).

Among the more important proposals are:

- Wage increases for public employees to be held down to 4.5 per cent, the same as officially projected 1992 inflation.
- Employee pension contributions to be raised.
- Prescription charges to go up sharply.
- Companies to be forced to revalue their assets so that tax on them can be increased.
- Tax dodgers to be offered amnesty in return for one-off lump sum payments.
- Sell-off of state companies to be increased.

"It's a bit of a hope-and-a-prayer package," said Chris Tinker, chief European economist at County Natwest Woodmac.

"There are some good ideas there but we have seen them before and they didn't work."

Mr. Andreotti has staked his future on winning ministerial approval for a tough budget and financial analysts said he would be keen to show his determination to EC counterparts when they meet in December to discuss monetary and political union.

Italy, which fears that its persistent budget deficit will relegate it to a B-league in a united Europe, has vigorously opposed a Dutch plan to create a two-speed economic system.

Islamic banks to set up Kuwait reconstruction fund

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — Islamic banks are setting up a \$500 million fund to help finance Kuwait's rebuilding programme, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) said Sunday.

The Jeddah-based bank said in a statement it would put up an initial \$60 million while the Al Baraka Investment and Development Company would provide another \$80 million.

Majid Al Refai, senior investment banking executive with the Saudi Al Baraka Group, told Reuters by telephone the fund would start extending finance to Kuwait in the next two to three weeks.

Western and other Arab banks were also invited to join the fund, though it would be run along Islamic principles, which ban interest, he said. Islamic banks operate on a system of profit and loss sharing.

He said the Qatari Islamic Bank had agreed to provide another \$5 million and Malaysia's Bank of Commerce \$8 million. A major Kuwaiti institution would put up \$30 million, he said without giving its name.

Kuwait needs billions of dollars to repair the damage from the seven-month Iraqi occupation which ended in February.

Crumbling communist bloc likely to hit Indian economy

NEW DELHI (R) — The revolutionary changes in the Soviet Union following the collapse of communism in east Europe are likely to rock India's battered economy, President Ramaswamy Venkataraman has said.

"The far-reaching changes in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union are bound to send shockwaves to our economy," Mr. Venkataraman told a meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

"The barter and rupee trade instrument, which had been of considerable assistance to us in expanding trade with these areas, may no longer be available to us," the president said.

"We may have to change our pattern of external trade in consonance with the changes that are occurring in those countries," the 81-year-old president said.

About 15 per cent of India's total trade is with the Soviet Union, a key ally which supplies the bulk of India's defence equipment.

The two countries use the Indian rupee as the currency to settle deals, which up to now have been arranged by bureaucrats rather than businessmen and are based on barter principles.

Trade had already all but collapsed before the Soviet Union began splintering after last month's failed coup, with both countries turning to other markets in search of desperately needed hard currency.

India in the past has bought about 4.5 million tonnes of crude oil a year — a fifth of its oil imports — under the rupee trade agreement.

Indian economists have said moves by the Soviet republics to a free-market economy and to create their own currencies will be the death knell for the Indo-Soviet trade agreement.

Mr. Venkataraman said in his speech to the FICCI, one of India's leading private sector business lobbies, that while the country was suffering through an unprecedented fiscal crisis, the 'real' economy has done quite well.

Good monsoon rains have insured record harvests for the past three years. Industrial production grew at an 8.5 per cent annual rate over the past five years. The gross domestic product grew at an average rate of 5.5 per cent in the 1980s.

But during the same period, India's external debt spiralled to \$71 billion — third largest in the developing world, the treasury is nearly depleted of foreign exchange and the government is negotiating a multi-billion dollar rescue package with the International Monetary Fund.

"Thus, we confront a somewhat contradictory situation. The productive and real sectors seem to be doing well. But at the same time, we have externally a financial crisis and domestically a fiscal crisis of an unprecedented magnitude," the president said.

Report reveals problems in many Nigerian banks

LAGOS (R) — The number of technically insolvent banks in Nigeria rose last year, heightening fears of multiple bank failure in sub-Saharan Africa's biggest economy, an official report has said.

The Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) said in its 1990 annual report that nine commercial banks were classified as distressed in 1990, after seven in 1989.

Shareholders in these banks, in effect, lost their capital since the ratio of uncollectable loans and advances to shareholders funds was 5.482 per cent, up from 1.441 per cent for the seven distressed banks in 1989, it said.

"This situation has endangered the fear of multiple bank failures," Abdul Kadir Ahmed, NDIC chairman and governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), said in a statement in the report.

The ratio of uncollectable loans to total loans portfolio in the nine banks, six owned by state governments, was 72.8 per cent at the end of 1990, it said.

The report said 26 commercial banks, 23 owned by state governments in the then 21-state federation, had classified assets which exceeded shareholders funds, making them "problem banks".

The bulk of their non-performing loans were either granted to or guaranteed by their owners, given to contractors working on state government projects, or were unauthorised and unsecured lending by bank branch managers, it said.

The NDIC, established by the

federal government in 1989 to insure the deposit liabilities of licensed banks, blamed the unhealthy condition of the banks on poor management, internal fraud and undue interference by equity holders.

CBN spokesman Tony Ede said owners of these banks had promised to recapitalise their banks.

He said a joint CBN-NDIC committee was trying to work out plans to help the distressed banks.

But bankers said the CBN, recently given more legal powers to control Nigeria's financial sector, should deal firmly with distressed banks, whose troubles stem mainly from poor management, corruption and government interference.

"It should allow one or two banks to go under. That would soon make the rest buck up," one Lagos banker said.

The NDIC report said fund management in the banking industry in general was poor last year. The ratio of loans and advances to deposits in banks was about 84 per cent in contrast to the maximum prudential ratio of 70 per cent.

Increases in non-performing assets caused many banks difficulties generating income on their loan portfolios. Low operational efficiency also brought income constraints.

"Even for those banks that were considered profitable, their rates of return on capital or assets were much lower than those in manufacturing and marketing activities," the report said.

Cases of fraud and forgery involving a total of 804 million naira (\$78 million) were reported in 1990, up from 105 million (\$10.2 million) in the previous year.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 6/10/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.685	.687
Sterling Pound	1.1890	1.1900
Deutsche Mark	.4083	.4103
Swiss Franc	.4602	.4685
French Franc	.1197	.1203
Japanese Yen*	.5279	.5305
Dutch Guilder	.3620	.3638
Swedish Krona	.1120	.1126
Italian Lira*	.0546	.0549
Belgian Franc	.01981	.01991

* Per 100

Brazilian president appeals to country for support on reform

SAO PAULO (R) — President Fernando Collor de Mello appealed to Brazilians Saturday night to support his plan to amend the constitution as a crucial step towards lifting Brazil from its economic crisis.

Mr. Collor spoke in a nationally televised address on the third anniversary of the 1988 constitution to explain his plan to revise it and call for support.

On Friday, Mr. Collor sent to congress a proposal to amend the constitution. The measures include ending a right to jobs for life for civil servants, allowing more foreign investment and restructuring the federal tax system that currently diverts almost half of revenue to state and municipal coffers.

The reforms could boost government revenue by \$7 billion in two years, newspapers reported.

On Saturday night, Mr. Collor's wide-ranging speech, packed with graphs and charts, seemed geared to explain to the average Brazilian what the country's problems were and how constitutional reform would help alleviate them.

While Mr. Collor praised the constitution as innovative and advanced in its guarantees of citizens' rights, he criticised aspects that dragged on economic growth.

"As it was approved, this constitution has difficulties, especially in regard to public spending and its chilling effect on internal and foreign investment," he said.

Mr. Collor also promised Brazilians there would be no new draconian plans to shock the economy into shape.

"In order to go back to growth we have to first stabilise the economy. This means we have to put an end once and for all to inflation, but with consistent measures. In Brazil, there is no longer any room for economic shocks," he said.

"Inflation is still resisting. That is why the only shock there is the shocking truth. And the truth shows us a difficult reality — let us face it with hard work," he added.

Mr. Collor took office in March 1990 and imposed a harsh policy of price and wage freezes. The freezes are being slowly lifted but inflation has returned to around 16 per cent a month, sparking broad speculation that another economic plan is just around the corner, despite government denials.

In his speech, Mr. Collor also called for support for his embattled privatisation programme.

Ballooning budget deficit had to be contained in order to encourage a higher savings rate in the economy, and industry needs to launch an all-out export drive, Mr. Venkataraman said.

"A society as poor as ours cannot grow unless we reinvest a large part of what earn and produce more," he said.

The ratio of their non-performing loans were either granted to or guaranteed by their owners, given to contractors working on state government projects, or were unauthorised and unsecured lending by bank branch managers, it said.

The NDIC, established by the

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THE UNTAMED
Shows: 6:15, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144
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Mahmoud Abdul Aziz
Najah Al Mouji in
THE KIT KAT
(Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
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EC threatens more sanctions against warring Yugoslavs

HAARZUILEN, Netherlands (R) — The European Community threatened Yugoslavia's warring parties on Sunday with further economic sanctions if they still ignored the terms of a peace agreement hammered out Friday in the Hague.

EC ministers said the options ranged from imposing an oil embargo against the disintegrating Balkan federation to full economic and trade sanctions.

"We have to make the protagonists in this disaster realise that if by Monday people have not respected the agreement, the community will take measures against those who do not fulfill the accord," Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez told a news conference. He spoke to reporters during an informal meeting of the 12 EC foreign ministers at De Haer Castle in the Dutch town of Haarzuilen.

"There are some measures... namely a commercial embargo which have not yet been decided, but they might be," Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao De Deus Pinheiro, said.

Meanwhile, one of Yugoslavia's top generals Sunday accused Croatia of seeking total war and said the federal army would go on fighting until a blockade of its barracks in the rebel republic had been lifted.

General Andrija Raseta, deputy commander of the Fifth Military District which includes Croatia, was speaking after Croatian President Franjo Tudjman called for a mobilisation "of all our forces" to confront Serbian irregulars and the army.

"By that Dr. Tudjman is asking for total war," Gen. Raseta told reporters in Zagreb.

He said Dr. Tudjman issued his midnight call to arms after Federal Defence Minister General Veljko Kladjic told Croatian authorities the army onslaught

would continue unless Croatia lifted a siege of its barracks and bases.

The Yugoslav army and Serbian guerrillas pounded targets across Croatia Sunday after the rebel republic declared full mobilisation.

Zagreb Radio said the Adriatic ports of Zadar, where the army garrison was reported to have surrendered to Croatian forces Saturday, and Dubrovnik came under heavy attack.

Many houses and cars were set ablaze in the bombardment of Dubrovnik, it said. There was no immediate word on casualties.

A boat carrying wounded from earlier fighting in the famous tourist resort, known as the "pearl of the Adriatic," arrived in Split further up the coast, the radio said.

Witnesses in Karlovac, on the northern edge of the Serb-populated Krajina region, said shells fell on the outskirts of the city from dawn, sometimes at intervals of only 15 seconds.

Karlovac, repeated scene of heavy fighting since Croatia declared independence more than three months ago, is a prime target for the army and its Serbian guerrilla allies, lying just 55 kilometres southwest of the Croatian capital Zagreb.

Further east, the town of Komarevo was under mortar attack and Sisak was attacked overnight, from the air with cluster bombs, Zagreb Radio said.

It reported planes carried out 17 sorties on the besieged eastern Croatian town of Vukovar Saturday, but that Croatian forces prevented army tanks from breaking through into the town.

Other Croatian media said Vukovar was being pounded again by artillery Sunday and there was also heavy fighting around villages that command the only access to Vukovar.

The republic's television said



Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia and his wife, Princess Katherine

nearby Osijek came under artillery, rocket and mortar fire and nine people had died in attacks in an around the town over the past 24 hours.

It said the army was suffering heavy casualties in the fighting in northeast Croatia. There was no independent confirmation of this.

Dr. Tudjman, in a dramatic midnight television broadcast, called for a full and immediate mobilisation in the breakaway republic.

"It (the situation) requires us to mobilise all our forces in a defensive war," he declared. "All those who are called to defend Croatia must respond immediately."

In a separate development, the exiled crown prince of Yugoslavia, Alexander Karadjordjevic, received an ecstatic welcome Saturday when he arrived in Belgrade on his first visit to the country.

At least 5,000 people waving Serbian flags greeted the British-

born prince, his wife Katherine and three sons when they flew in from London, 50 years after his father, King Petar, fled from invading Nazi forces.

"We want the king," "long live the king," "the Kingdom of Serbia," the crowd shouted as Prince Alexander left the airport building and stepped into a waiting limousine.

Some, calling on Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to give up power, shouted: "Slobo go away."

Hundreds of people lined the motorway from the airport to central Belgrade and many thousands packed the city centre as Prince Alexander drove through at the beginning of a two-day visit.

The Republic of Serbia lifted objections to the visit by the heir to the throne, reversing the policy of Yugoslavia's former ruling Communists who barred the royal family from the country and confiscated its property.

10 killed during Indian army crackdown on Kashmir rebels

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Ten people were shot to death Sunday in the second day of house-to-house searches by Indian army troops trying to contain the Muslim separatist insurrection in Kashmir, police and witnesses said.

The witnesses accused the paramilitary Border Security Force of opening fire on unarmed civilians who had been ordered out of their houses for the search. Ten people died, the witnesses said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Officers at police headquarters confirmed that seven bodies of civilians with gunshot wounds had been removed from the same area, the Batmaloo district in downtown Srinagar. The officials, in their usual manner, said they had no information about the circumstances of the shooting. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

Three more people died of bullet wounds later in a hospital, doctors said, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

An Associated Press reporter saw 18 other newly admitted patients at the hospital, all suffering from bullet wounds. In each case,

the patients or their relatives said they had been shot by paramilitary troops at Batmaloo.

One of the wounded, motor-cooter taxi driver Mohammad Ashraf, said he was driving through the area when the shooting started without warning. Mr. Ashraf said both his passengers, a 12-year-old boy and a man, were killed. Mr. Ashraf had bullet wounds in his stomach and one leg.

On Saturday, seven Muslim guerrillas, two civilians and a policeman were killed as the militants and police traded fire on the first day of the latest crackdown. Five other militants were shot dead by army when they tried to cross from Pakistan-held Kashmir into India-governed Kashmir Saturday, police said.

The Kashmir separatist revolt has alternately simmered and flared since 1947 when Britain acceded to independence demands by its former colony in the Indian subcontinent. With the departure of the British, the area was partitioned into overwhelming Muslim Pakistan and mostly Hindu India.

The Hindu Maharajah of predominantly Muslim Jammu-

Kashmir cast his lot with India but his principedom was partitioned between India and Pakistan.

The resulting state of Jammu-Kashmir is the only one in India with a Muslim majority.

Meanwhile, Sikhs fighting for an independent nation in Punjab bombed a police patrol train Sunday and opened fire after the derailed coaches plunged 10 metres into a dry ditch, police said. Eight security men were reported killed.

The bomb, detonated by remote control, exploded as the engine pulling two coaches started across a bridge at Kalichan, 35 kilometres east of Amritsar, senior police superintendent Parmjit Singh Gill said in the nearby town of Majitha.

The police train was on a routine patrol to search for bombs planted on the track in Punjab, where Sikh militants frequently attack passenger trains. It consisted of one engine, which was uncoupled from the coaches by the bomb and stayed on the rails, and two coaches. The train carried no passengers, apart from 10 policemen and home guard militiamen.

Bob Hope falls, cuts his face

FORT WALTON BEACH, Florida (AP) — Bob Hope stumbled during a rehearsal and got a bad cut above his famous ski slope-shaped nose. But the 88-year-old comedian went on with the show. It took six stitches to close the gash, but he was released from the hospital in time to appear at a benefit for the Air Force Enlisted Men's Widows and Dependents Home Foundation. "When I say I'm happy to be here tonight, I'm not kidding," Hope told his audience Thursday night. Hope fell near the stage at a high school football stadium and his sunglasses cut into him when he hit his forehead on the ground, said Rick Stevens, associate director of Okaloosa County Medical Services. "There are not many people his age who could take a fall like that and spring back and be on stage that night," Dr. Stevens said. "He's a great guy."

Scientists find gene that causes form of deafness

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Scientists said they have discovered the gene for an inherited type of deafness, an advance that may help uncover the causes of other forms of hearing loss. Researchers at the University of Costa Rica and the University of California said they made the discovery by combining modern scientific techniques with the genealogical history of a large Costa Rican family. The scientists said they analysed the DNA of 86 descendants of Felix Monge, an 18th century Costa Rican who was deaf. They located the genetic defect on a specific chromosome passed along from one generation to another. A person born with the gene begins to lose the ability to hear low frequencies as early as 10 and is deaf by 30, the researchers said in a statement.

Quadruplets born on couple's 10th anniversary

TEMPLE, Texas (AP) — A woman gave birth to quadruplets on her 10th wedding anniversary. The two boys and two girls, eight weeks premature, were delivered by Caesarean section. Pam and Billy Wilson of Lorena, about 125 kilometres south of Dallas, also have two daughters, ages 4 and 6. All four infants were in fair condition in the neonatal intensive care unit of Scott and White Memorial Hospital in Temple. They were born Thursday and would be hospitalised six to eight weeks, nurses said. Quadruplets occur once in every 729,000 births in the United States, said hospital spokeswoman Charlene E. Lee. The incidence has increased over the years through the use of fertility drugs. Mrs. Wilson took the fertility drug Clomid, said Dr. Jose F. Pliego, a reproductive endocrinologist at the hospital.

Prisoners plough their way to freedom

LONDON (R) — Two men escaped from a jail in southern England Thursday by a plunging through the prison gates on a tractor. David Palmer and Danny Curran commandeered a tractor used to dig the prison garden and rammed it through the gates to a waiting getaway car, police said. The Home Office (Interior Ministry) said Palmer was serving eight years at the jail in the southern country of Devon for counterfeiting and handling stolen goods. Curran was doing 18 months for burglary.

Burglar leaves important clue behind

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — A burglar who looted a woman's home of jewelry and \$600 left behind an important clue — his 4-year-old daughter. When police arrived at the home Thursday morning, they found the child in the hallway "crying for daddy," said detective Daniel Collins. The woman told police she was awakened by someone breaking into her front door. When she saw a man with a large knife headed upstairs, she locked herself in the bathroom. Collins said the woman told of hearing a child's voice throughout the burglary, saying: "Daddy, I'm hungry." "Daddy, I have to go to the bathroom." "Daddy, why is the lady crying?" It was not immediately known why the child was left behind. She was turned over to the state division of Youth and Family Services. No one had been arrested as of Friday.

3 kick off campaign for Japan premiership

TOKYO (R) — The three men who will battle it out to be Japan's next prime minister kicked off their campaigns Sunday, with newspapers giving ex-Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa an early edge.

Mr. Miyazawa, another former Finance Minister Michio Watanabe and ex-Trade Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka announced Saturday they would contest the Oct. 27 ruling party ballot.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, popular with the public damped by the party's most powerful reform, pulled out of the race to take responsibility for his failure to enact the reform bills.

Appearing on a Sunday television talk show, all three would-be successors vowed to carry forward Mr. Kaifu's reform campaign and carve out a bigger Japanese role in the new world order.

'N. Korea discussed ties with U.S.'

SEOUL (R) — North Korea's foreign minister was quoted Sunday as saying his country was holding contacts with the United States to try to establish diplomatic relations.

The South Korean newspaper Hankook Ilbo quoted the minister, Kim Yong-Nam, as saying in an interview that "various contacts" were under way.

"We hope talks on normalisation of ties between Chosun (North Korea) and the United States will reap a positive result in the near future," Mr. Kim reportedly said.

The daily said it conducted the interview Friday in New York, where Mr. Kim is attending a United Nations General Assembly meeting.

The United States not recognised the North Korean government since it was set up in 1948. It led a United Nations army against the North and Chinese troops in the 1950-53 Korean War.

Hankook Ilbo Thursday quoted North Korean Prime Minister Yu Hyong-Muk as saying improving relations between Pyongyang and Washing-

ton was an "urgent task" for peace on the Korean peninsula.

The paper Sunday quoted Mr. Kim as saying he had met many U.S. politicians and scholars to discuss issues including the North's controversial nuclear programme.

South Korea, still technically at war with the North, and Washington have expressed fears that the North will be capable of producing nuclear weapons within a few years.

Mr. Kim said the nuclear issue should not block an improvement of ties between Pyongyang and Washington.

1 soldier survives Indonesian plane crash

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — One soldier survived the fiery crash of an Indonesian Air Force C-130 transport plane that killed 132 other people, the air force said Sunday.

Meanwhile, military personnel were scouring the crash site to clean up any ammunition that might have been scattered around when the plane crashed into a labour department training centre shortly after takeoff Saturday.

All 132 of the dead were buried

with military honours Sunday in Ciledug cemetery on Jakarta's outskirts.

One was a security guard at the training centre. The plane's passengers were air force men being flown from Jakarta to Bandung, 150 kilometres to the southeast, after joining in Armed Forces Day ceremonies in the capital.

All remaining festivities for the armed forces' 46th anniversary Saturday were cancelled because of the crash, an armed forces spokesman said.

President Suharto expressed his condolences to the victims' families, saying the tragedy was a great loss to the nation.

Vice Marshal Siboen, air force chief of staff, said the crash was one of the biggest tragedies in the armed forces' history.

The crash survivor, reported in critical condition with massive burns, was identified as PFC. Bambang. Previously, all passengers on the plane had been reported killed.

Haiti coup leader hints Aristide may return

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haiti's army chief has hinted that President Jean-Bertrand Aristide may be returned to power if the army receives unspecified guarantees.

Brig. Gen. Raoul Cedras also claimed Saturday to be confident the week-old crisis caused by Mr. Aristide's ouster in a military coup Monday could be solved soon and said the U.S. ambassador was helping.

However, confusion arose later when the army high command issued a statement that seemed to contradict Gen. Cedras.

"Aristide's return is not negotiable," said the statement released on state-run radio. "It is a serious rumour that has angered the whole army."

The army statement came hours after Gen. Cedras summoned foreign journalists to army headquarters to discuss his position on meetings he held Friday and Saturday with envoys of the Organisation of American States (OAS).

A member of the OAS team, Foreign Minister Guido di Tella of Argentina, said he held out "great hope" of a peaceful solution. However, he said outside military intervention could not be ruled out to return Haiti's first freely elected president to power.

The ministers and coup leaders met for more than three hours late Saturday before a plane car-

ried the OAS delegation back to Washington early Sunday.

Canadian Foreign Minister Barbara McDougall told reporters aboard the plane that the ministers still were determined to restore Mr. Aristide to power but were prepared to discuss "the process by which he will be returned."

She and other ministers declined to discuss Gen. Cedras' response at two sessions with the ministers, but Mr. McDougall said all sectors of Haitian society, including both Mr. Aristide and the army, have "a responsibility to live by the constitution." Gen. Cedras has accused Mr. Aristide of violating the constitution in his rule.

Earlier Saturday, Gen. Cedras complained that some of the diplomats were exerting too much pressure to reverse the week-old coup, accusing them of overstepping their diplomatic mission.

Asked if he was referring to U.S. Ambassador Alvin Adams, who is known to have a close relationship with Mr. Aristide, Gen. Cedras said: "I think Ambassador Adams is a wise man... who is helping us now to find a solution to the crisis."

Gen. Cedras also indicated that Mr. Aristide might be allowed to return as president under special circumstances.

"If he would now return, it would be after a consensus by all

sectors of the country," Gen. Cedras said. "There would have to be guarantees from one sector to another."

He did not say what sectors he had in mind, but presumably he was referring to military, political and business leaders.

There is widespread hostility to Mr. Aristide among business leaders and in the National Assembly, and some observers speculated they could never reach a consensus over Mr. Aristide's return.

Many legislators have accused Mr. Aristide of going beyond his constitutional authority, and business has always been wary of what they see as his socialist agenda.

"I'm in favour of Aristide's return provided he be put in a constitutional straitjacket," said Jean-Claude Roy, a centre-left politician.

Gen. Cedras said he was "confident" a solution could be found, but played down the army's role in finding it. "This is not for the army to decide," he said.

In a subsequent denial that any negotiations were under way, the Army High Command accused Mr. Aristide supporters of spreading rumours. The contradiction with Gen. Cedras could indicate a split within the military hierarchy.

Early Saturday, Prime Minister

Rene Preval, who was appointed by Mr. Aristide, and members of Mr. Preval's cabinet emerged from hiding for talks with the OAS mission and Gen. Cedras.

The OAS has called on all organisation members to cut trade, financial, military and diplomatic ties with Haiti.

Meanwhile relatives were allowed into the city morgue Saturday for the first time since Monday's coup.

Scores of corpses, many bearing bullet wounds, filled three rooms of the morgue, which is part of the Port-Au-Prince General Hospital.

Most bodies were strewn on the floor of the three rooms, and crudely fashioned wood caskets were propped against a wall.

At the entrance, curious bystanders crowded behind an open grate, peering in at the grim scene.

A few hours after the morgue opened, only a few people were there trying to identify relatives. One woman, waiting, was held standing by three companions.

Many of the corpses had lain in the morgue — which has no air conditioning — for days and a stench filled the air. A separate cold-storage room was filled. Some bodies had been hung on a wall to save space.

An official said there were 85 bodies at the morgue Saturday morning.

Plotter: Gorbachev's trips helped to spark coup bid

BONN (R) — August's abortive coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was sparked in part by his trips abroad which aroused fears of a growing Soviet dependence on the United States, Der Spiegel quoted one of the plotters as saying.

Former Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov, quoted by the German newsweekly, said Mr. Gorbachev left other leaders in the dark about his talks abroad, especially his meeting with the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised countries in London last July.

Der Spiegel published excerpts in its Monday edition from what it said were secret video interrogations of Marshal Yazov, former KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov and former Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov.

The excerpts suggested the men who tried to take over the Soviet Union were poorly organised, naive and often drunk during the three-day coup, and confused and sorry afterwards.

Marshal Yazov told his interrogators, who quizzed him in front of a video camera the day after the Aug. 19-21 coup failed, that many in the Soviet leadership were unhappy with Mr. Gorbachev.

"The gist of it was that Gorbachev travelled abroad a lot in recent years and we often didn't know at all what important issues he discussed there," he said, according to Spiegel.

"Take Gorbachev's report in London at the G-7 meeting. None of us knew what he said there."

Arguing that Mr. Gorbachev broke a Kremlin tradition of collective decision-making, Marshal Yazov added: "We were naturally not ready to go into a greater dependence on the United States in political, economic and also military matters."

Mr. Gorbachev, the first Soviet leader to appear before the heads of the seven leading Western nations, briefed them on his reform without any new aid.

Yazov, the only military man Mr. Gorbachev promoted to the rank of marshal, said the president regained full control over Soviet nuclear forces only on Aug. 22 at 10 a.m.

"All codes are with the general staff, with the commander of the rocket troops — all the equipment is with Mr. Gorbachev from 10 a.m. today," Spiegel quoted him as saying.

"The rocket troops, strategic and civil air defences and also the navy had nothing to do with this adventure. They had no idea and were not even in contact with us."

Marshal Yazov, who also cited the Soviet Union's economic decline and mounting nationality problems as other reasons for the coup attempt, said Mr. Kryuchkov initiated the plot while Mr. Gorbachev was vacationing in the Crimea.

The former KGB chief, who was apparently not asked about this when interrogated the same day, said he ordered Mr. Gorbachev to be put under house arrest and his communications cut off.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Akihito returns home

JAKARTA (R) — Emperor Akihito flew home Sunday after an 11-day visit to South East Asia aimed at improving Japan's image, still tarnished in the region by World War II atrocities. Emperor Akihito, accompanied by his wife Empress Michiko on the tour of Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, told reporters Saturday Japan should learn from its wartime past and increase cooperation in the region where it has become the dominant economic power. "The Japanese people should study their past history and, based on that, not forget their resolution to live in peace," Emperor Akihito said. Japan is by far the most important economic partner for Indonesia whose senior officials have given the imperial couple red-carpet treatment. But they have largely been ignored by the people.

20 killed in Brazilian bus accident

SAO PAULO, Brazil (R) — Twenty passengers died and 45 were injured when a speeding bus they were riding in tumbled off a viaduct in Sao Paulo Saturday, authorities told television. The bus plunged 20 metres, crushing it to less than half its normal size. "The bus was travelling extremely fast," one passenger told Globo TV from a hospital bed.

Karamanlis hospitalised for tests

ATHENS (R) — President Constantine Karamanlis, the grand old man of Greek politics, went to hospital for tests after suffering from high blood pressure and feeling faint earlier this week. The condition of Mr. Karamanlis, 84, was stable but he needed additional tests, a statement by his doctors said. A blunt-spoken politician on the centre-right, he was prime minister from 1955 to 1965 and from 1974 to 1980. He served in the largely ceremonial post of president from 1980 to 1985. Mr. Karamanlis was the driving force behind Greece's entry into the European Community in 1981.

Sri Lankan troops destroy 5 rebel camps

COLOMBO (AP) — Government troops destroyed five Tamil rebel camps, including a well-equipped training base in the eastern jungles, military officials said Sunday. The camps, which could accommodate more than 300 people, were destroyed Saturday in the second offensive launched since Sept. 27 against the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the officials said. They said the camps were in the Ampara district 200 kilometres east of Colombo. Since the latest operation began Thursday, government aircraft have destroyed several rebel camps in bombing raids, according to officials at the joint operations command in Colombo, who cannot be identified under briefing rules. Some rebels were believed killed in the fighting, but casualty figures were not immediately available. There also have been no reports of government casualties.

7 killed in Belgian train crash

BRUSSELS (R) — Seven people died and 28 were injured when a train carrying tourists crashed near the east Belgian city of Liege Saturday, a Red Cross official said. Television stations said the converted colliery train went off the rails as it was carrying around 100 people, many of them elderly, from a visit to a disused mine. The Red Cross coordinator of the rescue effort said five were found dead in the wreckage and two more died in hospital later. All were Belgian.

Portuguese vote for new parliament

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Portugal's 8.5 million voters went to the polls Sunday in parliamentary elections pitting Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva's centre-right government against the opposition Socialist Party. Warm, dry weather around the country was expected to boost voter participation. Polling centres opened at 8 a.m. (0800 GMT) and were to close at 7 p.m. (1900 GMT) in mainland Portugal and the Atlantic archipelago of Madeira. Ballot boxes in the mid-Atlantic Azores Islands were scheduled to close one hour later. The 12,000 voters of Macao, Portugal's colony on the Chinese coast, had until 1300 GMT to cast their ballots. At stake in Sunday's voting were 230 seats in the Assembly of the Republic. Police dismissed a homemade bomb found in a polling station in the northern village of Vilar Formosa as parliamentary voting opened Sunday. Police said the bomb was made with dynamite, two batteries and a watch, the Portuguese News Agency (LUSA) reported.

Filipino town seeks to save U.S. base

OLONGAPO, Philippines (R) — A town whose economy depends on Subic Bay Naval Station launched a petition Sunday to save the last U.S. military base in the Philippines from closure. "This is our fight," said elementary school teacher "Resurrection" Dumlao, supervising the campaign in a schoolroom in Olongapo City, the Liberty Town outside the naval base 80 kilometres northwest of Manila. Olongapo officials said they hoped that 90,000 of the city's 120,000 registered voters would sign the petition demanding a referendum to overturn a Sept. 16 vote by the Senate rejecting a new U.S. military bases pact. Four hours after Olongapo's 16 schools opened to collect signatures, about 10 per cent of the voters had signed. City councillor Remy Cruz said he expected a heavy turnout later.